

Dutch football legend Coen Moulijn has died at the age of 73

Moulijn suffered a brain haemorrhage on New Year's Eve. He was admitted to hospital and died Tuesday morning. Moulijn played for Feyenoord from the 1950s to 1970s. The legendary left-winger was capped 38 times. In 1970, he won the European Cup and the Intercontinental Cup with the Rotterdam club. It was the first time a Dutch club had won either competition. □



Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Judgement Day is coming

The end of the world will begin May 21, 2011.

By TOM BREEN

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. – If there had been time, Marie Exley would have liked to start a family. Instead, the 32-year-old Army veteran has less than six months left, which she'll spend spreading a stark warning: Judgment Day is almost here.

Exley is part of a movement of Christians loosely organized by radio broadcasts and websites, independent of churches and convinced by their reading of the Bible that the end of the world will begin May 21, 2011.

To get the word out, they're using billboards and bus stop benches, traveling caravans of RVs and volunteers passing out pamphlets on street corners. Cities from Bridgeport, Conn., to Little Rock, Ark., now have billboards with the ominous message, and mission groups are traveling through Latin America and Africa to spread the news outside the U.S.

"A lot of people might think, 'The end's coming, let's go party,'" said Exley, a veteran of two deployments in Iraq. "But we're commanded by God to warn people. I wish I could just be like everybody else, but it's so much better to know that when the end comes, you'll be safe."

Continued on Next Page



Apparent suicide

Son of the late shah of Iran found dead

FILE - In this Friday, April 15, 2005 file photo, Alireza Pahlavi is seen during Prince Rainier III's funeral procession, in Monaco. Pahlavi, son of the late shah of Iran, has been found dead of an apparent suicide at his home in Boston. Reza Pahlavi, Alireza's brother, announced the death on his website Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

(AP Photo/Lionel Cironneau, Pool, File)

Read Page A13



President Barack Obama, with first lady Michelle Obama and daughters Malia, 12, left, and Sasha, 9, right, returns to the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, after a family vacation in Hawaii.

Associated Press

Change coming to White House

By BEN FELLER,

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama, looking ahead to his re-election effort, is shaking up his senior leadership team to deal with the new realities of his term.

Those realities include the fact that the era

of big legislation is over, that a massive campaign effort needs energy and people, and that the White House is taking a toll on those who run it.

Obama's press secretary, Robert Gibbs, is likely to leave, and the president's interim chief of staff, Pete Rouse, may be on the way out, too.

Those departures would significantly alter the management of the White House and the way it explains itself to the world. Obama is also expected to have a new chief economic adviser, a new senior political counselor, and two new deputy chiefs of staff. □

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In this Dec. 17, 2010 photo in Raleigh, N.C., Allison Warden poses with her car showing a message about the rapture. Warden, of Raleigh, has been helping organize a campaign using billboards, post cards and other media in cities across the U.S. through a website, We Can Know.

JUDGEMENT DAY

Continued from Front Page

In August, Exley left her home in Colorado Springs, Colo., to work with Oakland, Calif.-based Family Radio Worldwide, the independent Christian ministry whose leader, Harold Camping, has calculated the May 21 date based on his reading of the Bible.

She is organizing traveling columns of RVs carrying the message from city to city, a logistics challenge that her military experience has helped solve. The vehicles are scheduled to be in five North Carolina cities between now and the second week of January, but

Exley will shortly be gone: overseas, where she hopes to eventually make it back to Iraq.

"I don't really have plans to come back," she said. "Time is short."

Not everyone who's heard Camping's message is taking such a dramatic step. They're remaining in their day-to-day lives, but helping publicize the prophecy in other ways. Allison Warden, of Raleigh, has been helping organize a campaign using billboards, post cards and other media in cities across the U.S. through a website, We Can Know.

The 29-year-old payroll clerk laughs when asked about

reactions to the message, which is plastered all over her car.

"It's definitely against the grain, I know that," she said. "We're hoping people won't take our word for it, or Harold Camping's word for it. We're hoping that people will search the scriptures for themselves."

Camping, 89, believes the Bible essentially functions as a cosmic calendar explaining exactly when various prophecies will be fulfilled. The retired civil engineer said all his calculations come from close readings of the Bible, but that external events like the foundation of the state of Israel in 1948 are signs confirming the date.

"Beyond the shadow of a doubt, May 21 will be the date of the Rapture and the day of judgment," he said.

The doctrine known as the Rapture teaches that believers will be taken up to heaven, while everyone else will remain on earth for a period of torment, concluding with the end of time. Camping believes that will happen in October.

"If May 21 passes and I'm still here, that means I wasn't saved. Does that mean God's word is inaccurate or untrue? Not at all," Warden said.

The belief that Christ will

return to earth and bring an end to history has been a basic element of Christian belief since the first century. The Book of Revelation, which comes last in the New Testament, describes this conclusion in vivid language that has inspired Christians for centuries.

But few churches are willing to set a date for the end of the world, heeding Jesus' words in the gospels of Mark and Matthew that no one can know the day or hour it will happen. Predictions like Camping's, though, aren't new. One of the most famous in history was by the Baptist leader William Miller, who predicted the end for Oct. 22, 1844, which came to be known as the Great Disappointment among his followers, some of whom subsequently founded the Seventh Day Adventist church.

"In the U.S., there is still a significant population, mostly Protestant, who look at the Bible as kind of a puzzle, and the puzzle is God's word and it's predicting when the end times will come," said Catherine Wessinger, a professor at Loyola University in New Orleans who studies millennialism, the belief in pending apocalypse.

"A lot of times these prophecies gain traction when difficulties are happening in society," she said. "Right now, there's a lot of insecurity, and this is a promise that says it's not all random, it's part of God's plan."

Past predictions that failed to come true don't have any bearing on the current calculation, believers maintain.

"It would be like telling the Wright brothers that every other attempt to fly has failed, so you shouldn't even try," said Chris McCann, who works with eBible Fellowship, one of the groups spreading the message.

For believers like McCann, theirs is actually a message of hope and compassion: God's compassion for people, and the hope that there's still time to be saved.

That, ultimately, is what spurs on Exley, who said her beliefs have alienated her from most of her friends and family. Her hope is that not everyone who hears her message will mock it, and that even people who dismiss her now might still come to believe.

"If you still want to say we're crazy, go ahead," she said. "But it doesn't hurt to look into it." □



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By JEANNIE NUSS

Associated Press

BEEBE, Ark. — Blackbirds are having hard time staying alive in the Southeast. Just a few days after 3,000 blackbirds fell from the sky in Arkansas, about 500 birds dropped to their death in Louisiana, littering a quarter-mile stretch of highway near Baton Rouge. It wasn't clear if the deaths were linked, but such massive wildlife kills are far from uncommon. Biologists were trying to figure out what killed the birds in rural Pointe Coupee Parish, La. About 300 miles to the north, in the small town

of Beebe in central Arkansas, scientists said celebratory fireworks on New Year's Eve likely sent thousands of discombobulated blackbirds into such a tizzy that they crashed into homes, cars and each other before plummeting to their deaths. Still, officials acknowledged it's unlikely they'll ever pinpoint a cause with certainty.

Wildlife officials in both Arkansas and Louisiana were sending carcasses to researchers at the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis. and the University of Georgia, but

Birds still falling from the sky

it's not clear the bird deaths were related. In Beebe, New Year's revelers spent the holiday weekend cleaning up between 4,000 and 5,000 dead red-winged blackbirds. Some speculated that bad weather was to blame. Others said one confused bird could have led the group in a fatal plunge. A few spooked schoolkids guessed the birds committed mass suicide. "There was probably some physical reason, but I doubt anyone will ever know what it was," said Thurman Booth, the state's wildlife services director.

The birds were the second mass wildlife death in Arkansas in recent days. Last week, about 83,000 dead and dying drum fish washed up along a 20-mile stretch of the Arkansas River, about 100 miles west of Beebe. Wildlife officials say the fish deaths are not related to the dead birds, and that because mainly one species of fish was affected, it is likely they were stricken

by an illness. Full test results could take up to a month.

The U.S. Geological Service's website lists about 90 mass deaths of birds and other wildlife from June through Dec. 12. Five list deaths of at least 1,000 birds and another 12 show at least 500 dead birds. The largest was near Houston, Minn., where

about 4,000 water birds died between Sept. 6 and Nov. 26 from infestations of various parasites.

Red-winged blackbirds are among North America's most abundant birds, with somewhere between 100 million and 200 million nationwide, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y. □

With travel app, no one knows you're a tourist

By EMILY FREDRIX

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tourist in my own city? Ack. I learned within days of moving to New York City earlier this year that a) Times Square must be avoided at all costs and b) you don't want to look like a tourist. The telltale signs are — appearing lost, reading a guidebook, and walking ... slowly.

So it was with secret pleasure that I could bounce around the city recently_ with knowledge of my surroundings — but still maintain the illusion that I knew what I was doing.

Indeed, the best part about the Fodor's New York City 2011 iPod travel app is that it's a secret. Fodor's trademark orange cover, a not-so-subtle hint to strangers that you are, indeed, a tourist, is delightfully absent when you pull up the same guide on your smart phone.

Why yes, I can stand on the subway and look

up highlights for my visit to Grand Central. For all anyone else knows, I might as well be playing Scrabble.

For me, that was the best part about having the application, compared to carting around the guidebook on recent jaunts throughout the city. The content between the two was basically the same. While the application does have some tech extras that the book can't offer — such as using GPS to tell you what restaurants and sites are nearby — little else is different, beyond price and heft. At \$20, the book costs more than the \$6 application on iTunes. And at 550 pages, plus maps, it's a lot harder to carry around than your iPod. (And in a city like New York, where shopping and walking are frequent pastimes, you want your bags to be as light and empty as possible.)

But even with the lower price and extra space in my bag, I'm not quite sold on the application.

Continued on Page A6

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Texan declared innocent after 30 years in prison



Cornelius Dupree Jr., left, raises his hand to testify while attorney Barry Scheck, right, looks on in Dallas on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011. Dupree served 30 years for rape and robbery before being exonerated by DNA evidence.

By **JEFF CARLTON**

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas man declared innocent Tuesday after 30 years in prison could have cut short his prison stint twice and made parole — if only he would admit he was a sex offender.

But Cornelius Dupree Jr. refused to do so, doggedly maintaining his innocence in a 1979 rape and robbery, in the process serving more time for a crime he didn't commit than any other Texas inmate exonerated by DNA evidence. "Whatever your truth is, you have to stick with it," Dupree, 51, said Tuesday, minutes after a Dallas judge overturned his conviction.

Nationally, only two others exonerated by DNA evidence

spent more time in prison, according to the Innocence Project, a New York legal center that specializes in wrongful conviction cases and represented Dupree. James Bain was wrongly imprisoned for 35 years in Florida, and Lawrence McKinney spent more than 31 years in a Tennessee prison.

Dupree was sentenced to 75 years in prison in 1980 for the rape and robbery of a 26-year-old Dallas woman a year earlier. He was released in July on mandatory supervision, and lived under house arrest until October. About a week after his release, DNA test results came back proving his innocence in the sexual assault.

A day after his release, Dupree

married his fiancée, Selma. The couple met two decades ago while he was in prison.

His exoneration hearing was delayed until Tuesday while authorities retested the DNA and made sure it was a match to the victim. Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins supported Dupree's innocence claim.

Looking fit and trim in a dark suit, Dupree stood through most of the short hearing, until state district Judge Don Adams told him, "You're free to go." One of Dupree's lawyers, Innocence Project Co-Director Barry Scheck, called it "a glorious day."

"It's a joy to be free again," Dupree said.

This latest wait was nothing for Dupree, who was up for parole as recently as 2004. He was set to be released and thought he was going home, until he learned he first would have to attend a sex offender treatment program.

Those in the program had to go through what is known as the "four R's." They are recognition, remorse, restitution and resolution, said Jim Shoemaker, who served two years with Dupree in the Boyd Unit south of Dallas.

"He couldn't get past the first part," said Shoemaker, who drove up from Houston to attend Dupree's hearing.

Shoemaker said he spent years

talking to Dupree in the prison recreation yard, and always believed his innocence.

"I got a lot of flak from the guys on the block," Shoemaker said. "But I always believed him. He has a quiet, peaceful demeanor." Under Texas compensation laws for the wrongly imprisoned, Dupree is eligible for \$80,000 for each year he was behind bars, plus a lifetime annuity. He

could receive \$2.4 million in a lump sum that is not subject to federal income tax.

The compensation law, the nation's most generous, was passed in 2009 by the Texas Legislature after dozens of wrongly convicted men were released from prison. Texas has freed 41 wrongly convicted inmates through DNA since 2001 — more than any other state. □

U.S. BRIEFS

Commander loses carrier job over videos

NORFOLK, Va. — The Navy has permanently removed a senior Navy officer from command of an aircraft carrier over raunchy comedy videos he made and showed to the crew. The commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., said Capt. Owen Honors showed "extremely poor judgment" in the videos that included anti-gay slurs and sexual innuendo.

Honors was reassigned to an administrative role. The admiral said the Navy continues to investigate the case of the videos from 2006 and 2007 and will look into what other officers aboard the USS Enterprise knew about them. Honors was executive officer, or second in command, of the Enterprise at the time and later became its commander.

The videos became public when they were released Sunday by a newspaper in Norfolk. □

Former Thomas girlfriend has book deal

NEW YORK — A former girlfriend of Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas has a deal for a "sexually driven" memoir. Lillian McEwen, who dated Thomas in the 1980s, has signed with TitleTown Publishing, a Green Bay, Wis.-based publisher specializing in true crime and "inspirational" survivor stories. "D.C. Unmasked and Undressed" is scheduled to come out in early February, TitleTown announced Tuesday, adding that the book was "sexually driven."

McEwen, a retired administrative law judge, broke a long public silence last fall when she told The Washington Post that Thomas often made inappropriate comments and was "obsessed with porn," allegations made by former Thomas colleague Anita Hill during his 1991 confirmation hearings. Thomas vehemently denied such behavior. □

Appeals court asks for gay marriage guidance

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — A appeals court mulling California's controversial gay marriage ban said on Tuesday it needs more legal guidance before it can decide the important constitutional issues at stake.

California voters banned gay marriage in 2008 by approving so-called Proposition 8. But last year a federal district court ruled the measure unconstitutional.

Supporters of the gay marriage ban appealed, but then-Attorney General and now Governor Jerry Brown refused to sign on to the appeal. Then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also took the same stance.

In an order released on Tuesday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asked the Supreme Court of California whether initiative supporters have the authority to defend a ballot measure when public officials refuse to do so. □

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Pelosi has 'no regrets'

By STEPHEN OHLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat Nancy Pelosi said she had no regrets on her last day as House speaker Tuesday, a reign that lasted four years and is ending after the November elections.

Pelosi said Tuesday she looks forward to leading a loyal but tenacious opposition in the House. She started by calling Republicans hypocrites for trying to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, saying it would add to the federal budget deficit.

Republicans won the House majority in the November elections and John Boehner of Ohio will be sworn in as the new speaker on Wednesday. Pelosi — the first female

speaker — will be demoted to minority leader.

"I don't really look back, I look forward, and we look forward to, as I said before, being a willing partner and solving the problems of the American people," Pelosi said at a news conference with other House Democrats. "When our Republican colleagues have positive solutions, again, they will have a willing partner in solving the problems of the American people."

Pelosi said House Democrats will focus on creating jobs, improving the economy and shrinking the federal budget deficit. The deficit hit \$1.3 trillion in the budget year that ended in September — a year in which Democrats controlled Congress and the

White House.

With unemployment stuck above 9 percent, Pelosi was asked whether she regretted not doing more to improve the nation's still-struggling economy while she was speaker. Pelosi said the nation's economy was in a "near-depression" two years ago, when Obama first took office.

Since then, she said, the House passed numerous bills designed to create jobs that were ultimately blocked in the Senate, usually because the two chambers couldn't agree on how to pay for them.

"We have no regrets," Pelosi said. "This administration and this Congress inherited a near-depression. And so the



initiatives that we took were positive for the American people. It's not enough to save people from a depression, though.

Nine-and-a-half percent unemployment is intolerable and as long as we have that we have to continue to fight for job creation."

Pelosi chided House Republicans for scheduling a vote next week on a bill to repeal the new health care law.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the massive law will slightly reduce the federal deficit over the next 10 years. Repealing the law would therefore increase the deficit, Pelosi said.

Republicans say repealing the law is one of their top priorities, but they are sure to fail in the Senate, where Democrats still have a majority. □

Mysterious Murder of Bush Official:

John P. Wheeler III Found Dead in Delaware Landfill

NEW YORK — The murder reads like a spy novel: An ex-Pentagon official is found dead in a landfill, three days after disappearing between Washington and Wilmington. Christine Pelisek and Pat Wingert on what happened.

The murder could be taken from the pages of John le Carré. A former Pentagon official boards a train from Washington to his home in Delaware just after Christmas.

The man—a West Point cadet, a Yale and Harvard graduate and former general's aide in Vietnam—disappears without a trace, only to be found dead in a landfill days later.

This is the story of John P. Wheeler III, an adviser to four different administrations, whose body was discovered on New Year's Eve.

Beyond these sketchy details, police say, not much more is known about the apparent murder of the 66 year old, whose resume read like that of a character in a modern spy novel, and whose body was found dumped in a Wilmington landfill.

An employee at the landfill noticed Wheeler's body after it was dumped from a Waste Management truck onto a pile of trash at the Cherry Island landfill—miles from his home in the historic district of New Castle where he lived with his wife Katherine Klyce.

Three days earlier, Wheeler had been scheduled to take an Amtrak train from Washington to Wilmington near his home when he disappeared without a trace. Even this last journey is shrouded in mystery, police say. "He was scheduled to take the train but we don't know if he actually boarded the train," said Lt. Mark Farrall of the Newark Police Department. Although it took several days before Wheeler's body was identified, he was not reported missing by his family because his wife was out of town at the time of his disappearance, investigators say.

Wheeler is best known as one of the main forces

behind the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

On Sunday, the chief medical examiner's office in Delaware ruled that Wheeler's death was a homicide although the office refused to release the cause of death "pending further studies including toxicological analysis," according to Deputy Director Hal G. Brown.

"At this point we don't have any answers as to how or why this happened," said Farrall. "We don't have any suspects or motives at this point. We just don't know."

Police say they identified Wheeler by particular items they found on his body.

According to friends and associates, Wheeler was a skilled networker whose career was an unusual mix of military, government, charity, and private sector work.

Wheeler is best known as one of the main forces behind the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The decision to use designer Maya Lin's abstract design caused controversy and significant pushback from Ross Perot and James Webb, now senator of Virginia, but Wheeler was one of Lin's strongest defenders and, as chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, took a lot of the heat until the compromise to erect a statue of three soldiers nearby was worked

out. Wheeler, who served a tour in Vietnam as a general's aide before retiring from the military in 1971, fought hard to get the memorial built because he was motivated by the many West Point classmates he'd lost in the war, said some who knew him. "John was one of the few people who understood what a central role the memorial would play in the nation's healing," said Richard F. "Rick"

Weidman, executive director for Policy and Government Affairs at the Vietnam Veterans of America. "He was one of the core of people who made it happen."

Wheeler, who his close friends knew as Jack, reportedly had earned TS/SCI (Top Secret / Special Compartmentalized Information) clearance during his most recent government job, special assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force during the administration of George W. Bush.

"It's the kind of clearance you have when you're in the inner ring (of the Pentagon)," said a source who didn't want to be identified. "But that doesn't mean anyone thinks there's an espionage component to this murder."

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Founder and President Jan Scruggs said Wheeler was a "religious and patriotic person."

"He liked reading the bible, theology and he liked military events," he said, dismissing any conspiracy theories. Although he could be a fierce opponent in verbal jostling, Wheeler "didn't have the sorts of enemies" who would want to see him dead, said Scruggs.

"The people who were his enemies were guys he would argue philosophy or memorandums with," he said, adding that Wheeler's death "is a mystery." □

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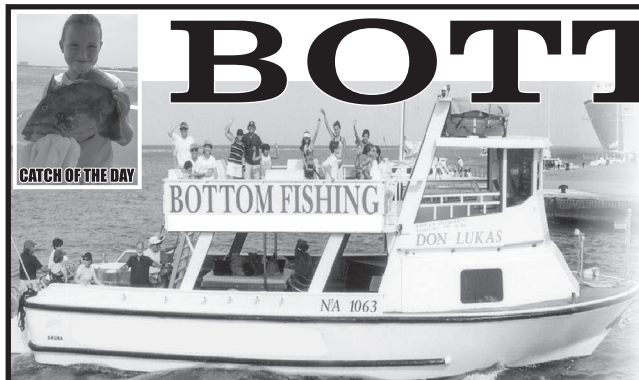
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Suicidal New York man leaps, but saved by garbage pile



NEW YORK — A would-be suicide jumper in New York was alive on Monday after leaping from a ninth-floor window but landing in a giant heap of garbage uncollected since the city's massive snowstorm a week ago. Vangelis Kapatos, 26, was hospitalized in critical but stable condition after jumping

from his apartment on West 45th Street on Sunday afternoon, authorities said. Sanitation workers have not collected trash since the December 26 storm dumped more than a foot and a half of snow on the city. Mounds of garbage several feet high line many sidewalks. "Everybody is complaining

that the trash hasn't been picked up," Kapatos' aunt said on Monday. "But me, I'm thankful that it was never picked up."

Police said the trash bags below broke Kapatos' fall and that he left no suicide note before jumping.

The Department of Sanitation, which was only resuming garbage collecting on Monday, estimates 77,000 tons of trash have been left uncollected

since the storm.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he expects workers to be caught up with trash collection by Friday.

"It will take a few days to catch up," Bloomberg said. "But they're out there today and hopefully in the next three to four days, we'll be done with it."

Katharina Capatos, who spells her surname differently from her nephew, told Reuters he

was severely depressed and had spent a month in the psychiatric ward at Bellevue Hospital before being released last week.

He also was worried about the possibility of being evicted from his \$572-a-month rent-stabilized apartment, she said. Kapatos' eviction hearing was scheduled to proceed on Tuesday, according to the New York City Housing Court. □

TRAVEL APPS

Continued from Page A3

It's a great option for tech-savvy travelers who don't want to weigh themselves down, but it seemed most useful to me when I knew where I was going and had a general sense of what I wanted to do — be it shop, eat, or visit sites such as Bryant Park.

If I were entirely new to my destination, however, I'd think twice before committing solely to an app. Guidebooks are a joy to flip through; you get so many travel ideas, of places big and small, along with a sense of neighborhoods. When I have a trip ahead of me, I spend hours leafing through guidebooks, jotting down ideas, and examining my options. The application, for me, wasn't as browser-friendly as the book. It was very useful when I knew what I wanted to do, but less so if I was just skimming the pages for ideas. There were many fewer photos, and fewer breakout sections that pull out little tidbits of information. The application is more to the point, to get you what you need in a hurry without any clutter. (If you want extra information, the app does provide links to take you to web pages.) It also makes it easy for you to bookmark sites for future reference. And if you're using a version on the iPhone, you're just a click away from dialing that restaurant to snag a reservation.

I used the app on an iPod Touch, which meant no phone calls or web access for the "what's nearby" feature unless I was in a Wi-Fi area. Luckily, the application has offline maps so I could still find out, generally, where I was,

if I didn't have Internet access. If I found my location, I could click through to see what else was nearby.

The new apps, the first of their kind for Fodor's, are not meant to replace the guidebooks, spokeswoman Meg Rushton said. The company so far has apps for four destinations — London, Paris and San Francisco in addition to New York. "We know travelers like to have options and the ability to access info on varying platforms," she said. "And we know that different platforms carry with them different strengths, which we feel we've capitalized on." It was fun to use the app when I climbed out of the subway and into Grand Central. I appreciated being able to type in my destination and just click through to the page as I walked. If I were using the guidebook, I would have had to rush to the side, to get out of the way of the crowd, then take out my book and find it in the index. (Going to the side is key in any crowded New York area — just like pulling over on the highway.)

Both app and book list Grand Central as a top site in Midtown, and both advised me to look up at the ceiling of the main concourse to see the constellations made from twinkling fiber-optic lights. Both also recommended experiencing the thrill of rush hour.

Retreat, then, to the staircases and climb to the balconies to take in the whirl of people rushing, dodging and weaving their way home. I climbed high enough that it was safe to take out that orange-labeled guidebook again. Or maybe it was time for another Scrabble move. □

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Bobby Farrell, Boney M. and the Strange Death of Rasputin

Tribute to an Aruban legend



The disco ballad for which Bobby Farrell became most known was about a debauched Russian mystic who came to a bad end after dallying with the women of the Romanov court during its final years. So it was a sad and eerie irony that the sixty-one year old performer who was the sole male member of Boney M. passed away Thursday morning in city of the tsars on the anniversary of the “Mad Monk’s” death. Farrell was found in his hotel room in St. Petersburg, after a Wednesday night show that included a rousing “Ra- Ra- Rasputin.” Farrell was born in Aruba. He left home as a teenager and made his way to Holland, where he built a reputation as a DJ and dancer. The German music producer Frank Farian recruited him for a group that he was putting together in 1976. Boney M. was a curious entity. Comprising three women also from the Caribbean (Liz Mitchell and Marcia Barrett from Jamaica and Maizie Williams from Montserrat), it featured Farrell dancing and lip-syncing to vocals provided by Farian himself.

Continued on Page A10

Photo Exhibit to launch at Westin Aruba Art Gallery

PALM BEACH - On Saturday January the 8th The Westin Aruba Gallery opens the first solo exhibit of local photographer Annemiek (Miki) van Vliet.

Miki is an amateur photographer, who focuses mainly on nature.

However, architecture is also a favorite subject. She likes taking on the more scientific and journalistic role of photography as social document, visual record, and tool of communication, but still, very concerned with beauty. She tries capturing the decisive moment, when unexpected visual congruities reveal significant moods and meanings; a moment that is not there the next. She calls herself a hobbyist with an observant eye who uses photography for factual statement, for persuasion, for entertainment, and for personal expression, or in other words, as a graphic means of depicting the “real” world. With this exhibit she wishes to share some of the world’s beauty that some may not have the opportunity to explore.

“If it captured my eye, even in ruined and dilapidated state, I must have seen beauty in it and that is what I want to share



in the hope of making others see as well, maybe if it is by slowing down for a minute and really look at it and try to see behind the façade instead of rushing by in this hurried life we lead.”

The exhibit is freely accessible every day of the week till February 4, in the Westin Aruba Art Gallery. You are most welcome. □





Palm Beach – Department Heads and Managers got together for an entertaining



gift exchange at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. The event was nicely catered by the resort's Food & Beverage department and



enjoyed the spirit of mutual appreciation and camaraderie. General Manager Rob Smith thanked his hard working crew for assisting in the

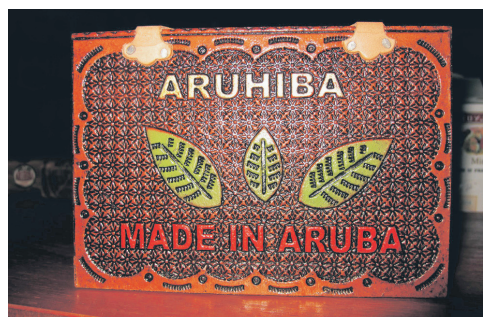


financial performance. Pictured here, fun party moments, as the Radisson conducts a gift exchange in the spirit of the holidays. □

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Bobby Farrell, Boney M. and the Strange Death of Rasputin



Continued from Page A7

The producer, according to German newspapers, feared that he was not attractive enough for the stage. Boney M. became world famous in the late 1970s for such hits as "Rivers of Babylon," "Daddy Cool," "Sunny" and "Brown Girl in the Ring," as well as "Rasputin." In 1978, the group made a rare promotional visit to the Soviet Union. Although they were not allowed to include "Rasputin" on the album they released in Russia, they have remained popular in former Eastern bloc countries. But

they suffered from internal problems. The quarrels between Farrell and Farian became so intense that, according to legend, they sometimes shouted at each other during live performances. In 1982 Farian threw his frontman out. Farrell, who was married at the time to a Yugoslavian model, tried to launch a solo career that never took off. In 1984 Farian asked Farrell to come back, but Boney M. dissolved soon after, for good. Since 1992, Farrell, like the other group members, has toured using the Boney M. name, much

to his former producer's annoyance. When not traveling, Farrell lived in a quiet neighborhood in southeast Amsterdam. Grigori Rasputin, the legendary mystic the Boney M. song celebrates, is said to have strongly influenced Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family in the final days of his reign. Legends grew up around Rasputin after he survived several assassination attempts. The exact circumstances surrounding his murder on the night of 29-30 December 1916 have remained the subject of rumor and speculation for nearly a century, inspiring persistent superstitions regarding his powers. Some accounts claim that when Rasputin's corpse was recovered from the



Moika River its arms were in an upright position, as if he had survived the cyanide poisoning and multiple shootings his autopsy revealed and had been trying to claw his way out from under the ice. Tsarita Alexandra had the corpse buried on the grounds of the tsarist residence of Tsarskoye Selo about twenty kilometers outside St. Petersburg. Peasants later exhumed it and dragged it to the woods

to burn; some eyewitnesses claimed that they saw it sit up in the bonfire (this may have been caused by improper preparation of the body). Farrell's agent, John Seine, told Reuters that he was not aware of any specific medical problems that Farrell had been suffering, although Seine reports that the singer did complain of feeling unwell on Wednesday night. The cause of his death has not been disclosed. □



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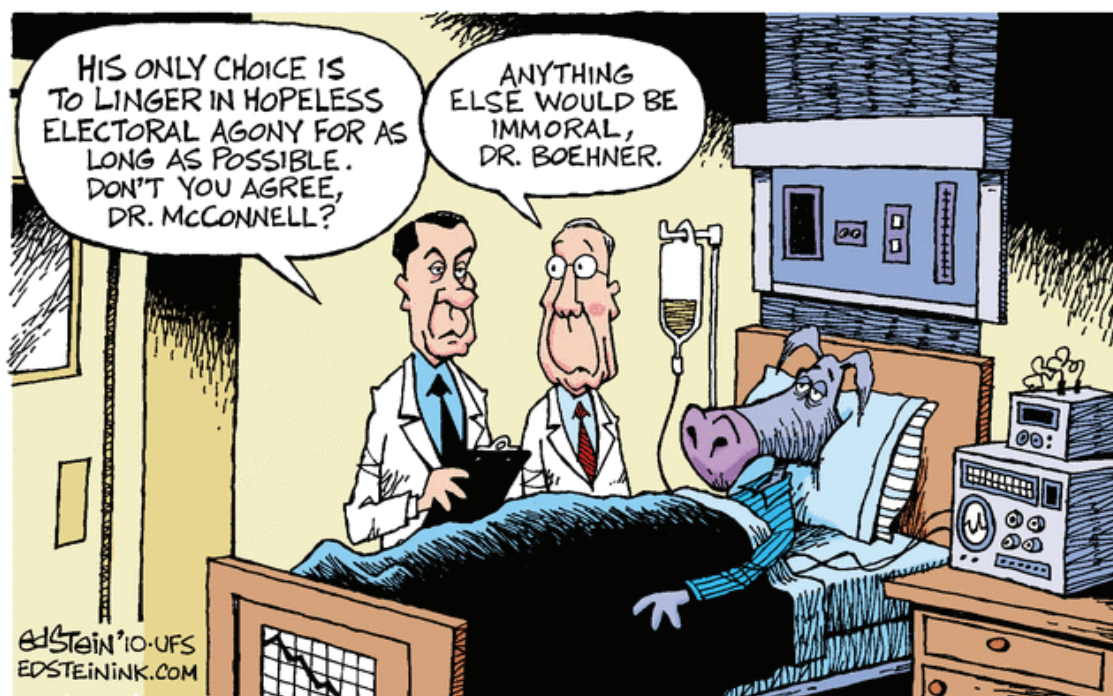
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END OF LIFE COUNSELING

The Happy Marriage Is the 'Me' Marriage

By TARA PARKER-POPE

A lasting marriage does not always signal a happy marriage. Plenty of miserable couples have stayed together for children, religion or other practical reasons.

But for many couples, it's just not enough to stay together. They want a relationship that is meaningful and satisfying. In short, they want a sustainable marriage.

"The things that make a marriage last have more to do with communication skills, mental health, social support, stress — those are the things that allow it to last or not," says Arthur Aron, a psychology professor who directs the Interpersonal Relationships Laboratory at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. "But those things don't necessarily make it meaningful or enjoyable or sustaining to the individual."

The notion that the best marriages are those that bring satisfaction to the individual may seem counterintuitive. After all, isn't marriage supposed to be about putting the relationship first?

Not anymore. For centuries, marriage was viewed as an economic and social institution, and the emotional and intellectual needs of the spouses were secondary to the survival of the marriage itself. But in modern relationships, people are looking for a partnership, and they want partners who make their lives more interesting.

Caryl Rusbult, a researcher at Vrije University in Amsterdam who died last January, called it the "Michelangelo effect," referring to the manner in which close partners "sculpt" each other in ways that help each of them attain valued goals.

Dr. Aron and Gary W. Lewandowski Jr., a professor at Monmouth University in New Jersey, have studied how individuals use a relationship to accumulate knowledge and experiences, a process called "self-expansion." Research shows that the more self-expansion people experience from their partner, the more committed and satisfied they are in the relationship.

To measure this, Dr. Lewandowski developed a series of questions for couples: How much has being with your partner resulted in your learning new

things? How much has knowing your partner made you a better person? (Take the full quiz measuring self-expansion.)

While the notion of self-expansion may sound inherently self-serving, it can lead to stronger, more sustainable relationships, Dr. Lewandowski says.

"If you're seeking self-growth and obtain it from your partner, then that puts your partner in a pretty important position," he explains. "And being able to help your partner's self-expansion would be pretty pleasing to yourself."

The concept explains why people are delighted when dates treat them to new experiences, like a weekend away. But self-expansion isn't just about exotic experiences. Individuals experience personal growth through their partners in big and small ways. It happens when they introduce new friends, or casually talk about a new restaurant or a fascinating story in the news.

The effect of self-expansion is particularly pronounced when people first fall in love. In research at the University of California at Santa Cruz, 325 undergraduate students were given questionnaires five times over 10 weeks. They were asked, "Who are you today?" and given three minutes to describe themselves. They were also asked about recent experiences, including whether they had fallen in love.

After students reported falling in love, they used more varied words in their self-descriptions. The new relationships had literally broadened the way they looked at themselves.

"You go from being a stranger to including this person in the self, so you suddenly have all of these social roles and identities you didn't have before," explains Dr. Aron, who co-authored the research. "When people fall in love that happens rapidly, and it's very exhilarating."

Over time, the personal gains from lasting relationships are often subtle. Having a partner who is funny or creative adds something new to someone who isn't. A partner who is an active community volunteer creates new social opportunities for a spouse who spends long hours at work.

Additional research suggests that spouses eventually

adopt the traits of the other — and become slower to distinguish differences between them, or slower to remember which skills belong to which spouse.

In experiments by Dr. Aron, participants rated themselves and their partners on a variety of traits, like "ambitious" or "artistic." A week later, the subjects returned to the lab and were shown the list of traits and asked to indicate which ones described them.

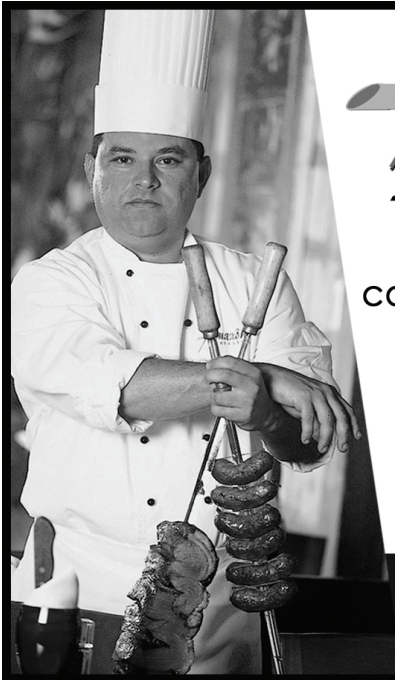
People responded the quickest to traits that were true of both them and their partner. When the trait described only one person, the answer came more slowly. The delay was measured in milliseconds, but nonetheless suggested that when individuals were particularly close to someone, their brains were slower to distinguish between their traits and those of their spouses.

"It's easy to answer those questions if you're both the same," Dr. Lewandowski explains. "But if it's just true of you and not of me, then I have to sort it out. It happens very quickly, but I have to ask myself, 'Is that me or is that you?'"

It's not that these couples lost themselves in the marriage; instead, they grew in it. Activities, traits and behaviors that had not been part of their identity before the relationship were now an essential part of how they experienced life.

All of this can be highly predictive for a couple's long-term happiness. One scale designed by Dr. Aron and colleagues depicts seven pairs of circles. The first set is side by side. With each new set, the circles begin to overlap until they are nearly on top of one another.

Couples choose the set of circles that best represents their relationship. In a 2009 report in the journal Psychological Science, people bored in their marriages were more likely to choose the more separate circles. Partners involved in novel and interesting experiences together were more likely to pick one of the overlapping circles and less likely to report boredom. "People have a fundamental motivation to improve the self and add to who they are as a person," Dr. Lewandowski says. "If your partner is helping you become a better person, you become happier and more satisfied in the relationship." □



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Son of former Iranian shah found dead in Boston

By DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON — The youngest son of the late shah of Iran was found dead Tuesday of an apparent suicide at his home in Boston, after he had “struggled for years to overcome his sorrow,” his brother said.

“Once again, we are joined with mothers, father and relatives of so many victims of these dark times for our country,” the shah’s oldest son, Reza Pahlavi, wrote on his website in announcing the death of his brother, Alireza Pahlavi.

Pahlavi, 44, died from a single gunshot wound that was apparently self-inflicted, said Jake Wark, a spokesman for the Suffolk District Attorney’s office.

Boston police said officers responding to a 911 call found the man dead in his home in the city’s South End neighborhood shortly after 2 a.m. Tuesday. A police spokesman did not know who made the call or whether it came from the home.

Fardia Pars, who is close to Reza Pahlavi, said by phone from Paris that Alireza Pahlavi went into a deep depression following his the death of his sister Leila in 2001, who was found in a London hotel room at age 31 after overdosing on barbiturates.

Alireza Pahlavi never recovered, Pars said.

“He became a different

person,” he said.

Pahlavi’s depression “grew over time — his departure from Iran, living in exile, the death of his father and then his sister to whom he was very close,” said Nazie Eftekhari, who works in Reza Pahlavi’s office in Washington and is a close family friend.

“The deaths were a huge blow to him,” she said.

When Leila Pahlavi died, her mother said her daughter had been “very depressed.” Her doctor had said she had a history of anorexia, bulimia and psychological problems. Pars said Alireza’s style even in taking his life was militaristic in nature, reflecting his royal background. “Like an army commander, he shot himself. He was a very disciplined man,” Pars said.

Former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic revolution. He fled Iran and wandered from country to country, ill with cancer, and eventually died in Egypt in 1980.

Alireza Pahlavi was born in Tehran in 1966 and attended school there until 1979, according to a brief biographical sketch on the website of his mother, the former empress Farah Pahlavi.

From 1979 to 1981, Pahlavi attended schools in New York and Cairo, and from 1981 to 1984 he attended Mount

Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass.

Pahlavi studied music as an undergraduate at Princeton University and ancient Iranian studies as a graduate student at Columbia University.

He also did postgraduate work at Harvard University in ancient Iranian studies and philology. Pahlavi was not studying at the university at the time of his death, a Harvard spokesman said Tuesday.

A police officer was seen late Tuesday afternoon going in and out of Pahlavi’s Boston apartment and speaking with family representatives, who would not talk to reporters.

A neighbor, Dan Phillips, 42, said he did not know Pahlavi personally but recognized his picture and described him as someone who was very social and “who always dressed very dapper.”

“I would always see him walking around here and he used to wear blue jeans and a blazer,” Phillips said.

Trita Parsi, the president of the National Iranian American Council, said in a statement that “the Iranian-American community was deeply saddened by the news of this tragedy.

“There are many divisions in the community, but on a day like this, I think we are all united in our sympathy with the Pahlavi family for their tragic and painful loss,”



FILE - In this Friday, April 15, 2005 file photo, Iran’s Farah Pahlavi, widow of Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, right, and her son Alireza Pahlavi, are seen during Prince Rainier III’s funeral procession, in Monaco. Alireza Pahlavi, son of the late shah of Iran, has been found dead of an apparent suicide at his home in Boston. Reza Pahlavi, Alireza’s brother, announced the death on his website Tuesday, Jan.

Parsi said.

Reza Pahlavi, who is based in the U.S., has spoken out in opposition to Iran’s clerical regime. It’s not clear how much weight exiled opposition forces have inside Iran, nor how many Iranians support the idea of a return to monarchy. Pahlavi said in 2009 that that is not his goal. “I’m not here to advocate anything but ... freedom and democracy for the

Iranian people at first and I’ve determined this as my unique mission in life,” he said at the time.

Pahlavi will head to Boston on Wednesday, Eftekhari said, and she expected his mother, who’s in Paris, to go as well.

Eftekhari said the family asks to be allowed to mourn privately for a few days and that no funeral arrangements have yet been made. □

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Pakistani governor who opposed blasphemy law slain



Commando of Pakistan's Elite force Mumtaz Qadri, right, who allegedly killed Punjab's governor Salman Taseer sits in a police custody in Islamabad, Pakistan on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

ASIF SHAHZAD
NAHAL TOOSI
Associated Press
ISLAMABAD (AP) — The

governor of Pakistan's most dominant province was shot and killed Tuesday by a bodyguard who authorities said

Associated Press

was angry about his opposition to blasphemy laws carrying the death sentence for insulting the Muslim faith.

Punjab Gov. Salman Taseer, regarded as a moderate voice in a country increasingly beset by zealotry, was a close ally of U.S.-backed President Asif Ali Zardari. He is the highest-profile Pakistani political figure to be assassinated since former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto three years ago, and his death underscores the growing danger in this country to those who dare challenge the demands of Islamist extremists.

Taseer was riddled by gunshots while walking to his car after an afternoon meal at Kohsar Market, a shopping center in Islamabad popular with Westerners and wealthy Pakistanis. He was shot in the back, said Shaukat Kayani, a doctor at Poly Clinic Hospital. Initial reports indicated the suspected gunman, a police commando guarding Taseer, unloaded up to 26 rounds from a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. The gunman could have fired that number of rounds in a matter of seconds.

Other guards then forced the police commando to the ground, according to police and hospital officials.

"It was one shot first and then a burst," said R.A. Khan, a witness who was drinking coffee at the time. "I rushed and saw policemen over another police commando, who was lying on the road with his face down."

An intelligence official interrogating the suspect said the commando had been planning the assassination since learning three days ago that he would be deployed with the governor. Police were trying to determine how he was assigned to Taseer's security detail Tuesday and whether he'd had any help.

Taseer's admirers called the governor a profile in courage in a fight for the soul of Pakistan, which in recent years has increasingly swung away from South Asia's Sufi-influenced moderation to the more fundamentalist approaches to Islam found in some areas of the Middle East.

"Taseer showed himself to be a rare politician, willing to risk his life in espousing an unambiguous position against discrimination and abuse," said Ali Dayan Hasan, senior South Asia researcher for Human Rights Watch.

"He was the most courageous voice after Benazir Bhutto on the rights of women and religious minorities," said Farahnaz Ispahani, a fellow leading member of the Pakistan People's Party, who wept as she spoke. "God, we will miss him." The U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, Cameron Munter, called Taseer "a champion of tolerance."

The death also is a blow to Zardari, Bhutto's widower whose ruling party is struggling to retain power after the defection of a key ally. The country's leading opposition party on Tuesday gave the government a three-day deadline to accept a list of demands to avoid collapse.

The renewed political turmoil bodes ill for military action against Muslim extremists that the U.S. believes is key to success in neighboring Afghanistan, analysts say. Pakistan's powerful army could use the lack of political consensus to avoid operations that clash with its perceived strategic interests.

Taseer, a 66-year-old businessman and media tycoon known for wearing sunglasses in public, took on the ceremonial role of Punjab governor in 2008.

Punjab is Pakistan's most

populous province and is home to many of the country's wealthiest citizens. A number of militant movements thrive there, though not to the extent of the Taliban in the northwest. Taseer publicly vented his opposition — even using Twitter — to Pakistan's harsh blasphemy laws that effectively order death for anyone convicted of insulting Islam. Although courts typically overturn convictions and no executions have been carried out, rights activists say the laws are used to settle rivalries and persecute religious minorities. People accused of blasphemy are often killed by extremists or spend significant amounts of time behind bars. In some cases, the charges border on the ridiculous: A man was recently held because he threw away a business card of someone whose first name is Muhammad.

The laws came under renewed international scrutiny late last year when a 45-year-old Christian woman, Asia Bibi, was sentenced to death for allegedly insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Taseer called for granting Bibi a pardon, a stance that earned him death threats from Islamists.

"I was under huge pressure sure 2 cow down b4 rightest pressure on blasphemy. Refused. Even if I'm the last man standing," Taseer tweeted on Dec. 31.

The guards assigned to his security detail Tuesday were provided by the Punjab province government, which is headed by the rival Pakistan Muslim League-N party, according to Interior Minister Rehman Malik. The guards were apparently one of two squads protecting Taseer, who has a permanent group at all times but gets an additional, rotating squad depending on the district he is visiting. □

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Iran to let countries visit nuclear sites, not U.S.

By NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Tuesday it had invited the European Union and some other world powers — but apparently not chief critic the United States — to tour nuclear sites before the next round of international talks in late January on its disputed nuclear program.

The Associated Press reported the invitation to tour the facilities on Monday, citing a letter from a senior Iranian envoy that suggested Jan. 15-16 for the visit. A diplomat familiar with the letter said Iran invited Russia, China, Egypt, the group of nonaligned nations at the U.N.'s International Atomic

Energy Agency, Cuba, Arab League members at the IAEA, and Hungary, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

Iran's economy appears to be struggling under the weight of four rounds of international sanctions over its nuclear program, which the West suspects is aimed at producing weapons though Tehran denies that. Iran returned last month to nuclear talks with the so-called 5+1 countries — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany — which hold sway over the sanctions. And the invitation to visit nuclear sites may also be a sign that Tehran is looking for ways to ease its financial pain.

Slain Filipino official caught suspect on camera



In this handout photo provided by the Dagsa Family on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, an alleged assassin aims a gun at Reynaldo Dagsa, who was taking a picture of his family early Jan. 1, 2011, just outside their residence at Caloocan city, north of Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine police investigating the New Year's Eve shooting death of a local councilman did not have to look further than the last photograph the victim took. That photo led to the arrest of two suspects.

The picture, taken outside the councilman's house in metropolitan Manila, clearly shows a man aiming his gun from behind the victim's smiling three-member family, seconds before he was shot.

The relatives — Councilman Reynaldo Dagsa's wife, daughter and mother-in-law — are seen standing beside the family's car, which has lights on, and the gunman, wearing a baseball cap, is bracing himself against the vehicle and pointing his gun at Dagsa. His face is slightly obscured by the gun.

The car was parked along an alley outside the Dagsas' house. In another corner of the photograph is a man police identified as the assassin's lookout.

Police said Tuesday that Dagsa was shot seconds after the photo was taken and died of his wounds by the time he reached a hospital. His family gave police the photo, which ran on the Philippine Daily Inquirer's front page Tuesday. □

The State Department mocked Iran's offer, calling it a "magical mystery tour." Spokesman P.J. Crowley said the offer is no substitute for Iran fully cooperating with the U.N. nuclear watchdog to prove that its nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes and not to build a bomb.

Asked by reporters how the U.S. felt about being excluded from Iran's invitation, Crowley responded sarcastically by saying: "We're just crushed." While he did not urge others to decline the invitation, he did say there is no reason for any country to attend.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin

Mehmanparast confirmed the invitation on Tuesday, saying it went to "the EU, the nonaligned movement and representatives from 5+1 countries." He said Iran would name the countries later and added that the invitation was a sign of Iran's "good will" and greater transparency about its nuclear program.

Mehmanparast did not give a firm date, but said the tour would take place before the January round of nuclear talks.

An Iranian official speaking from a European capital said facilities to be visited include the uranium enrichment facility at Natanz and the Arak site where Tehran is building a plutonium-producing heavy water reactor. Both facilities are considered suspect by the West because they could be used to make the fissile core of nuclear warheads; Tehran's refusal to shut them down has triggered U.N. Security Council sanctions.

The new round of negotiations is meant to explore whether there is common ground for more substantive talks on Iran's nuclear program. A round of talks in Geneva in December yielded no breakthrough.

The Security Council has demanded that Iran freeze uranium enrichment — a process that can produce both fuel and fissile warhead material. But Iranian negotiators flatly ruled out discussing such demands at



Iran's chief negotiator Saeed Jalili gestures during a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, Dec 7, 2010. Iran and six world powers ended talks Tuesday with an agreement to meet again early next year, suggesting Tehran may be ready to address international demands that it discusses nuclear activities that could be used to make weapons.

Associated Press

the Istanbul meeting, Western diplomats familiar with the talks said.

The offer of a visit comes more than three years after six diplomats from developing nations visited Iran's uranium ore conversion site at Isfahan, which turns raw uranium into the gas that is then fed into enriching centrifuges. Participating diplomats told reporters they could not assess Iran's nuclear aims based on what they saw there.

A diplomat familiar with the invitation said the U.S. and some other Western powers in the group were not invited in an apparent attempt to split the six powers ahead of the next round of planned nuclear talks.

China, and to a lesser degree Russia, have acted to dilute harsh sanctions proposed

by the U.S. and its Western allies on the Security Council, leading to compromise penalties enacted by the council that are milder than the West had originally hoped. On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei acknowledged that Beijing has received an invitation and hopes the dispute over Iran's nuclear program would be resolved through dialogue.

The Foreign Ministry of Hungary also confirmed receiving the Iranian letter and said it is discussing the offer with other EU member nations and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

France has not received any invitation to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities, French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Christine Fages said. □

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Israeli PM appeals to U.S. to free convicted spy



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convenes the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

MARK LAVIE
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister made a public appeal Tuesday for the freedom of an American who spied for Israel, asking in a letter to President Barack Obama for clemency after the spy has spent 25 years behind bars. The case of Jonathan Pollard "unites us

all," Benjamin Netanyahu told his parliament, before reading the letter.

The request comes at a low point in Israel-U.S. relations over stalemated Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. A deal that would have given Israel advanced warplanes and political backing in exchange for an extension of a slowdown in settlement construction to

restart peace talks, but it fell through.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said the administration would review the request.

With relations with the U.S. strained over the lack of progress in peace efforts, it appeared unlikely it would be approved. Previous Israeli appeals have been met coolly.

Pollard, now 56, was turned away from the Israeli Embassy in Washington in 1985 with U.S. authorities close behind. He was arrested and sentenced to life in prison for passing classified information to Israel about Iraq and other subjects.

In his letter to Obama, supplied to The Associated Press by his office, Netanyahu repeated Israeli apologies about the Pollard

affair, recognized as a black mark on Israeli foreign affairs. "Its actions were wrong and unacceptable," the letter said.

Netanyahu wrote that since Pollard has now spent 25 years in prison, "I believe that a new request for clemency is highly appropriate."

The Pollard case deeply embarrassed Israel, infuriated Washington and put American Jews in an uncomfortable position of having to defend their loyalty to the U.S. while supporting Israel at the same time. American defense officials remain furious over the case.

Netanyahu listed earlier appeals to the U.S. to release Pollard, dating back to 1995, and recounted his own visit to Pollard in prison as a private citizen in 2002. He told his parliament that

Pollard asked him in a letter two weeks ago to make a public request to Obama for his release.

"I believe that after 25 years that Jonathan has sat in prison and after 15 years of unsuccessful efforts, it was right to agree to this request," he said.

Netanyahu's office would not comment on the timing of the appeal.

Israeli analyst Yossi Alpher speculated that it could be part of a deal over the stalled peace talks. He said Netanyahu could sell concessions to his hard-line government more easily if he won freedom for Pollard at the same time.

On the other hand, Alpher said, it could be just a "populist gesture on Netanyahu's part directed at various circles in Israel and the American Jewish community." □

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Naturally, the restaurant's whole Grilled Red Snapper, fresh fish fillets and beef tenderloins are all cooked "A la "Plancha," with just a sprinkle of olive oil, representing a healthy Mediterranean life-style. Thanks to Aram Belda, a native from Valencia (Spain) and chef at Casa Tua Barcelona.

Patrons also favor the restaurant irresistible thin-crust pizza, baked according to a secret family recipe, topped with Casa Tua infused spicy olive oil, a signature condiment for Casa Tua restaurants on the Island.

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Federer, Nadal win season openers at Qatar Open

World number one tennis player Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Slovakian Karol Beck during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

Associated Press
Page B7



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Djokovic downs Hewitt at Hopman Cup

ALEXANDRA WILLIS

Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic comfortably handled Lleyton Hewitt 6-2, 6-4 as Serbia stayed unbeaten at the Hopman Cup with an unassailable 2-0 victory over Australia on Tuesday. Ana Ivanovic produced another impressive performance to see off Alicia Molik 6-4, 6-0 and win the first point for Serbia despite suffering an injury scare in the second set when she appeared to overextend her left knee. Serbia leads Group A with two wins from two ties and can reach Saturday's final with a last round-robin win on Thursday over Belgium, which eliminated Kazakhstan 3-0 to stay in contention.

Australia also has one win, and plays Kazakhstan on Thursday.

Djokovic, who has won his last four matches against Hewitt on the ATP Tour, saved four break points at 2-2 then won four games on the trot to take the first set 6-2.

Egged on by a pocket of noisy Serbian supporters, the 3rd-ranked Djokovic broke Hewitt in the second game, only for the Australian to break straight back. The next games went with serve until Hewitt suffered the heartbreak of double-faulting twice at 5-4 to hand Djokovic the win.

Continued on Page B7

PASSING AGGRESSIVE

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, right, passes as he is pressured by Miami Dolphins linebacker Cameron Wake during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press
Page B2



Jets deem massage therapists' suit 'without merit'

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Sports Writer

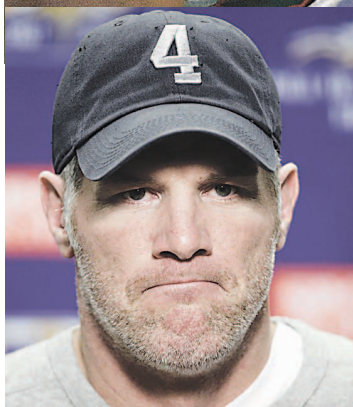
FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre speaks to the media after an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. The Lions won 20-13.

Associated Press

The New York Jets say a lawsuit filed against them and Brett Favre by two massage therapists is "completely without merit," and the team had not been aware of the accusations. Christina Scavo and Shannon O'Toole contend in a lawsuit filed Monday they were subjected to sexual harassment and

job discrimination. They are seeking unspecified damages from Favre, the Jets and a team massage coordinator, saying they lost their part-time jobs after complaining about sexually suggestive text messages from the 41-year-old quarterback while he was with the team in 2008.

Continued on Page B6



Tom Brady's interceptions: As simple as 1-2-3-4

HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP) —

Quarterback Tom Brady heaved the ball toward the end zone to try to avoid overtime, but the throw on the last play of the fourth quarter was picked off by Baltimore safety Ken Hamlin on a mild mid-October afternoon.

Since then, the New England Patriots' pinpoint passer hasn't thrown another interception.

That's 11 games, 335 consecutive passes. And just four interceptions all season. "It blows my mind a little bit," Miami coach Tony Sparano said before his Dolphins kept Brady's streak alive in the Patriots' 38-7 win on Sunday. Through the first five regular season games, Brady was accurate, but not perfect. He threw two interceptions in the second game on deep passes to Randy Moss in a 28-14 loss to the New York Jets. He threw two more in the fifth, a 23-20 overtime win over Baltimore.

And that's it.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) looks to throw as his offensive line holds back Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Randy Starks (94) and linebacker Cameron Wake (91) during the first quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press

Eight other quarterbacks have thrown four interceptions this season — in a single game. Peyton Manning did it twice in consecutive games, and four of those were returned for touchdowns.

It has taken some luck. In a 36-7 win at the Chicago Bears, at least two passes were nearly intercepted after being tipped. "I've been very fortunate over the course of this season

that the (opposing) defense has dropped the ball. They could catch it, you know?" Brady said, starting to smile. "But (then) they'd be playing offense."

The only defenders who have hung on to his passes are Antonio Cromartie and Brodney Pool of the Jets and Chris Carr and Hamlin of Baltimore.

Hamlin even has changed

teams since the streak began. He was cut by Baltimore, where he had gotten more playing time while Ed Reed was on the physically unable to perform list, and then signed by Indianapolis.

With home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs, the Patriots have this weekend off and will play Baltimore or the Jets — the only two teams that have intercepted

Brady — or the Kansas City Chiefs on Jan. 16 in the divisional round. Brady has never thrown more than 14 interceptions in his nine seasons as a healthy starter. Brett Favre has done that in 14 of his 19 full seasons.

Brady's run of 335 straight passes without an interception is an NFL record. Less than one percent (.81) of his 492 passes have been picked off, third best in NFL history. Damon Huard's percentage was .41 with Kansas City with one interception but only 244 passes in 2006, and Joe Ferguson's was .66 with Buffalo in 1976 with one interception in only 151 passes.

"I'm just trying to make good reads and good throws," Brady said. "Guys have done a hell of a job catching the ball in traffic. The offensive line has been protecting. I think we've really been playing with the lead a bunch, too, so you don't really have to force the ball into those situations." The playoffs should be more competitive. The passes should be just as precise. □

Lott, Madden on new player safety advisory panel

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — John Madden wants to make pro football safer, not tamer.

Madden and Ronnie Lott, both in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will co-chair the NFL Player Safety Advisory Panel. It will consist of former NFL players, coaches and general managers and make recommendations to Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Other committee members on the panel announced Tuesday are former players Antonio Freeman, Patrick Kerney, Willie Lanier, Anthony Munoz, former coach Marty Schottenheimer and former general manager Ernie Accorsi.

"This is a way of looking at player safety and the way the game is played and how it will be played," Madden said during a conference call. "Football is a tough game, the NFL is tough. Guys are big and fast and strong and there are violent hits. It's a violent game. Within that, how can we make it safer?"

"You are not going to take hitting out of football, or take big, fast, strong guys having collisions

out of football. There are ways of making it safer and I just want to be part of that."

The NFL said the panel will review rules, equipment standards and game video, among other things. Lott says the panel is an important step in making the game safer.

"How do we collect data, information and get smarter?" he said. "If we can do all of that, we will be a smarter league. We need to try to understand all the things we know about the game and all the things we don't know about the game."

"Looking back on my career, I would say, 'Boy if I had known this, I would have been better prepared for that situation.'"

NFL executive Ray Anderson said Goodell wants input from former players and coaches. So do Madden and Lott, who also plan to talk to current players and coaches. Their committee will study the entire NFL year, from offseason workouts and weight training sessions to minicamps, training camp, preseason games and the regular season.

Madden even mentioned possibly widening the fields if it meant enhanced safety.

"The players are bigger, stronger, faster and playing on the same sized fields, so maybe we widen the field," he said. "I would like to look at NFL stadiums today and could we do that?" The announcement comes a day after New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate what he says are misleading claims in the selling of new and reconditioned football helmets.

In his letter to FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz, Udall says he is "troubled by misleading marketing claims by Riddell, a leading helmet maker that supplies the official helmet to the National Football League."

Udall also wants the FTC to "look into potential false and deceptive practices related to the reconditioning of used helmets."

Madden said all equipment will be investigated by his committee, including hip, knee and thigh pads that the league has considered making mandatory.

"If we are talking about safety of the game," Madden said, "we want to encompass every guy that plays it to protect him in every way he can be protected in every area of the game." □

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Andrew Luck leads Stanford past Va Tech 40-12

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — John Elway flashed his familiar grin and Jim Harbaugh gave a jubilant shout from the sideline as Andrew Luck sprinted up the field to join a celebration in the end zone.

Nearly a quarter remained in the Orange Bowl, but the Stanford Cardinal were on the way to their first bowl victory in 14 years. And it was a blowout.

Luck, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, threw for 287 yards and four touchdowns Monday night to lead fifth-ranked Stanford past No. 12 Virginia Tech 40-12.

"I'm extremely excited," Luck said. "Couldn't be happier for the Stanford community."

It was a performance reminiscent of Elway, the former Stanford quarterback who is expected to become the Denver Broncos' chief football executive this week. He served as an honorary captain, and ex-Stanford QB Jim Plunkett was also on hand to lend support.

The Cardinal (12-1) likely will end the season ranked in the top 5 for the first time since the unbeaten 1940 team finished No. 2. Their success comes only four years after they went 1-11 and hired Harbaugh as coach to lead a turnaround.

Virginia Tech (11-3), playing in a bowl game for the 18th consecutive year, fell to 1-27 against top-5 teams.

Stanford threw a completion for a bizarre safety and blew two extra points, but overcame those mistakes with six plays gaining more than 30 yards. Two came in succession on a two-play, 97-yard "drive," and the Cardinal outscored Tech 27-0 in the second half.

"They're really good, and we helped them be good," Hokies coach Frank Beamer said. "There were a couple of long plays against our defense, and then the game got away from us. The thing kind of snowballed."

Tight end Coby Fleener caught scoring passes of 41, 58 and 38 yards from Luck, all in the final 21 minutes. Zach Ertz had a 25-yard TD reception, Jeremy Stewart scored on a 60-yard run and Stepfan Taylor added a 56-yard run. Fullback-linebacker Owen Marecic scored on a 1-yard run and had a sack.

Luck went 18 for 23 and was chosen the Orange Bowl most valuable player. Fleener had six catches for 173 yards for the Cardinal, who outgained Tech 534-288.

The game might have been the last at Stanford for Harbaugh and Luck. Harbaugh is expected to be courted by NFL teams and perhaps alma mater Michigan after leading the Cardinal to a school-record win total. Luck, a sophomore, is projected as the likely first pick in the NFL draft if he turns pro this year.

"I don't want to make an impulsive decision," Luck said. "I'll enjoy this as long as I can. I know the deadline is coming up, I'll sit down with my parents, weigh the pros and cons and go from there."

Stanford began to pull away by going the length of the field in 29 seconds in the third quarter. After Delano Howell made an interception at the 3 to snuff a Tech threat, Taylor busted loose and reached Hokies territory. On the next play, Luck threw deep to Fleener for a 26-12 lead.

Luck also threw for a safety that cut Stanford's lead to 7-2. His pass was batted backward by Antoine Hopkins to 303-pound offensive tackle Derek Hall, who caught the ball rather than knocking it down and was tackled in the end zone.

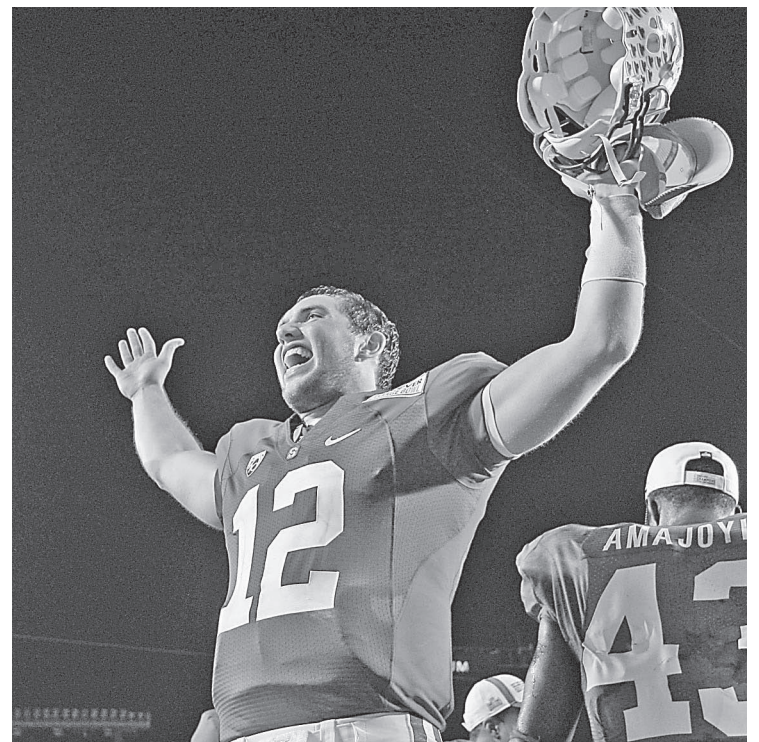
The Hokies' offense had trouble scoring, though. Tyrod Taylor threw for 222 yards but was held to 22 yards rushing, and Tech twice came away empty after driving inside the Stanford 35.

Taylor's scrambling skills helped the Hokies score their only touchdown. On third-and-goal he rolled left, retreated, spun 180 degrees against the sideline near the Stanford bench and threw to David Wilson for an 11-yard score.

After the play, Tyrod Taylor asked Harbaugh if he had stepped on the sideline. Harbaugh told him he hadn't.

Taylor moved the Hokies 60 yards in the final 47 seconds of the first half to set up a 37-yard field goal by Chris Hasley, but they netted only 109 yards in the second half.

"I'm still proud of my boys for this whole season," Taylor said. "We had a heck of a season, and it's nothing to hold your head down about right now." □



Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck (12) celebrates after Stanford's 40-12 victory over Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl NCAA college football game in Miami, Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

Associated Press



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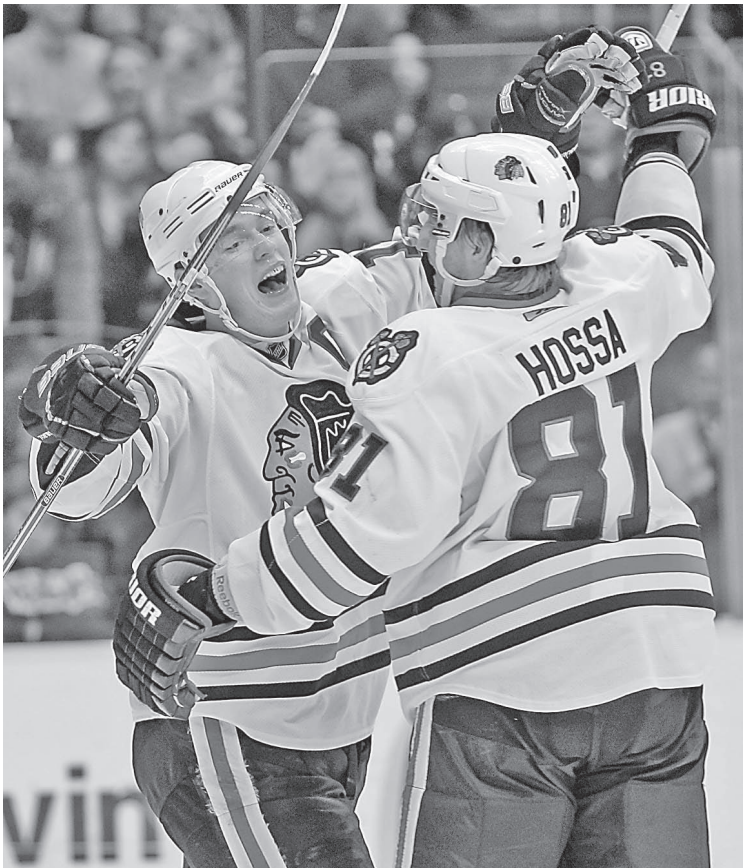
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NHL Roundup

Blackhawks beat Kings 4-3 to end 3-game skid

Chicago Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews, left, celebrates after scoring the go-ahead goal with teammate Marian Hossa, right, of the Czech Republic, against the Los Angeles Kings during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Los Angeles on Monday, Jan. 3, 2011. The Blackhawks won 4-3.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jonathan Toews scored the winning goal off his own skate at 14:33 of the third period, giving the Chicago Blackhawks a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Monday to end a three-game losing streak.

The defending Stanley Cup champions swept the Kings in four games for the first time since 1981-82, when they went 3-0-0 against them.

Patrick Sharp continued his success against Los Angeles, scoring two goals and assisting on another. His three points gave him eight this season against the Kings.

Sharp's two goals gave Chicago the lead both times until Ryan Smyth tied it 3-3 for the Kings on a drive that broke his stick at 12:42 of the third.

Canucks 4, Sharks 3

At San Jose, California, Alexandre Burrows scored midway through the third period as Vancouver held on to beat San Jose.

Daniel Sedin, Alexander Edler and Jannik Hansen also scored for the Canucks, who improved to 8-0-1 in their past nine road games

and 15-1-2 in their past 18 overall. Cory Schneider stopped 32 of 35 shots.

Ryane Clowe, Patrick Marleau and Jamal Mayers scored for the Sharks, who lost for the third time in their past nine games. Antti Niemi made 43 saves.

The victory lifted Vancouver into the top spot in the West with 55 points while San Jose stayed in the fourth spot.

Bruins 2, Maple Leafs 1

At Toronto, Marc Savard scored the tiebreaking goal and Tuukka Rask stopped 36 shots to help Boston down Toronto.

Nathan Horton also scored for the Bruins.

Mikhail Grabovski had the Maple Leafs' goal and James Reimer — making his second straight start for Toronto — had 31 saves.

Islanders 5, Flames 2

At Calgary, Alberta, John Tavares had two goals and an assist, and Matt Moulson also scored twice as New York beat Calgary.

Michael Grabner scored New York's fifth goal into an empty net, while Andrew MacDonald and PA Parenteau each had two assists for the Islanders, who are 7-1-1 in their past nine.

New York starting goalie Rick DiPietro made 13 saves for the win before leaving with an apparent lower-body injury with the Islanders up 4-1 in the second period.

David Moss scored both

goals for Calgary, which got 21 saves from second-string netminder Henrik Karlsson.

Panthers 4, Hurricanes 3, OT

At Raleigh, North Carolina, Bryan Allen scored 1:16 into overtime to lift Florida over Carolina.

Cory Stillman, Chris Higgins and Dennis Wideman also scored for Florida, which squandered a two-goal lead in the third period before steadying itself for the win.

Scott Clemmensen made 34 saves for the Panthers, who improved to 5-1-2 in their last eight games. Florida also celebrated a rare win at Carolina — the Panthers are 6-25-2 all-time at the RBC Center.

Zac Dalpe, Zach Boychuk and Jay Harrison had the Hurricanes' goals. Ward made 24 saves but couldn't help Carolina win its fourth straight.

In other NHL games it was Boston 2, Toronto 1; Florida 4, Carolina 3, OT; N.Y. Islanders 5, Calgary 2; Chicago 4, Los Angeles 3; and Vancouver 4, San Jose 3. □

Canada to face Russia in Junior Hockey final

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Canada coach Dave Cameron can appreciate how a gold-medal showdown against Russia for hockey supremacy can still capture imaginations back home. Just don't ask his fresh-faced players — all of them 20 years or younger — to start buying in.

"A lot of these guys can't go back five or six years," Cameron said Tuesday. "They don't know. So I'm not going to give them a history lesson now."

In the name of Vladislav Tretiak and Paul Henderson, the Canada-Russia rivalry isn't what it used to be as the two traditional hockey superpowers prepare to meet Wednesday in the World Junior Hockey Championship tournament's title game.

It's a familiar spot for the Canadians, who are appearing in the final for a 10th consecutive year and attempting to win their sixth gold medal in seven years.

The resurgent Russians, though, haven't won the tournament since 2003, and are making their first appearance in the final since 2007, when they lost 4-2 to Canada.

That's ancient history for Team Canada, who entered this tournament with a gold-or-bust objective after losing the title a year ago to the United States in a 6-5 overtime loss at Saskatchewan.

Canada already delivered its payback against the Americans, with a convincing 4-1 win in Monday's semifinal. They don't intend to stop there.

"Today's a new day," said forward Brayden Schenn, who's leading the tournament with seven goals and nine assists in six games. "We didn't come here to beat the U.S. We came here for the gold medal. And we still have that up for grabs."

The Americans are still in the hunt to secure their first medal in the five times they've hosted the tournament. □



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NBA Roundup

James, Wade power Heat to 96-82 win over Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — LeBron James scored 38 points and Dwyane Wade added 31 point as the Miami Heat dominated the second half to beat the short-handed Charlotte Bobcats 96-82 on Monday for their 11th straight road win.

Playing for the first time against Paul Silas, his first NBA coach in Cleveland, James scored 26 of his points in the second half and added nine rebounds. Wade grabbed 11 boards in Miami's 18th win in 19 games.

Stephen Jackson scored 22 points and D.J. Augustin added 16 for the Bobcats, who shot 38 percent from the field with 15 turnovers. Magic 110, Warriors 90

At Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu had 10 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and Dwight Howard added 22 points and 17 rebounds as Orlando beat Golden State.

Jason Richardson scored 20 points for the Magic, who had 76 points in the second half after trailing 53-44 at halftime.

Monta Ellis led Golden State with 20 points and Dorell Wright added 17

points.

Celtics 96, Timberwolves 93

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 23 points to help Boston overcome a double-digit deficit — and another double-digit rebounding performance by Kevin Love — to beat Minnesota.

Love had 24 rebounds and 12 points, but he airballed a jumper with just over a minute left and Minnesota trailing by one. Michael Beasley scored 19, including Minnesota's last eight points, but his desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer bounced harmlessly off the backboard.

Ray Allen scored 20, Glen Davis had 17 points and Rajon Rondo added 16 assists for the Celtics, who haven't lost to the Timberwolves since they traded Kevin Garnett to Boston in the summer of 2007.

Hornets 84, 76ers 77

At New Orleans, David West scored 17 points as New Orleans held on to beat Philadelphia.

Paul scored 15 points, using a speedy left-to-right dribble on a clutch driving layup off the glass with

just under 20 seconds left to give the Hornets an 82-77 lead. Emeka Okafor had 13 points and former Sixer Willie Green added 11 for New Orleans.

Brand led Philadelphia with 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Andres Nocioni had 13 points and Jrue Holiday and Marreese Speights each had 12 points.

Nuggets 113, Rockets 106

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 33 points as the Nuggets pulled ahead late in the fourth quarter to beat Houston for their fourth consecutive win.

Anthony had 11 rebounds and made 13 of 14 free throws to help the Nuggets fend off the Rockets with his eighth game of 30 or more points this season.

Nene added 16 points and 11 rebounds and Arron Afflalo scored 15 points for Denver.

Houston was led by Luis Scola with 24 points. Kyle Lowry had 21 points and Brad Miller had 11 rebounds and 10 points.

Jazz 102, Pistons 97

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored 22 points, including a pair of late free throws, as Utah beat Detroit



Miami Heat's LeBron James, center rear, argues a call with referee Joe Crawford as teammates Zydrunas Ilgauskas (11), of Lithuania, and Carlos Arroyo (8) look on in the second half of the Heat's 96-82 win over the Charlotte Bobcats in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

Associated Press

for the 11th straight time. Raja Bell hit a 3-pointer and sank two free throws to give the Jazz a 100-97 lead with 17.9 seconds left.

Tracy McGrady, starting in place of Rodney Stuckey, missed a 3-pointer and

Al Jefferson grabbed the rebound to seal the victory. Tayshaun Prince led Detroit with 26 points and McGrady came within one rebound of a triple double. He had 11 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds. □

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matinee: 2:00
late show: PG-13

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HOW DO YOU KNOW
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GULLIVER'S TRAVEL
daily: 4:00 - 7:15 - 9:15
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THE TOURIST
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late show: PG-13

NARNIA "THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER"
daily: 6:00 - 8:30
matinee: 11:15
late show: PG

BLACK SWAN
daily: 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30
matinee: 12:00 - 2:15
late show: R

LITTLE FOCKERS
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Marlies Schild claims 4th World Cup slalom win



Austria's Marlies Schild competes on her way to win an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom race, in Zagreb, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2011. Schild won her fourth slalom title of the season Tuesday at a women's World Cup night race.

ERIC WILLEMSSEN
Associated Press
ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Marlies Schild claimed her fourth slalom victory of the season at a women's World Cup night race on Tuesday. The Austrian had a flawless second run to finish in a combined time of 2 minutes, 1.80 seconds and beat second-place Olympic champion Maria Riesch of Germany by 0.75 seconds. Manuela Moelgg of Italy was 1.08 back in third. Riesch extended her lead over Lindsey Vonn in the overall standings to 186 points. The defending champion from the

United States went out in the opening run. "It's a great feeling to win again. This is a special place for me," said Schild, who also won in Zagreb in 2006 and 2007 and had two more podium finishes here. Schild has won every slalom race she has finished this season. She also won in Levi, Finland; Courcheval, France; and Semmering, Austria, but went out in her first run at Aspen, Colorado. "I am skiing with lots of confidence. I am having fun and that's the most important thing," said Schild, who has won 27 World Cup races, all

but two of them slaloms. She is closing in on the alltime record of 34 slalom wins by Swiss great Vreni Schneider. "As I kid, I always looked up to Vreni," Schild said. "But nine victories left is a lot." Schild overcame bad weather conditions to post the fastest time in the first run when thick fog over the icy Crveni Spust course caused poor visibility, especially for the early starters. "I couldn't see much, just the next gate. It was like flying blind," said the Austrian. "I didn't feel like having a good run." Conditions had vastly

improved by the start of the final leg. Riesch also called it a "very hard" first run. "I could see just three gates ahead and I never was in a good rhythm coming down," the German said. Riesch attacked in the final run to take second place for a sixth time this season. "If I can put in two really good runs, then maybe I can win a slalom as well," Riesch said. "But for now, I am very happy. It's important to land on the podium to get the big points." Vonn never looked comfortable from the start of her run. She was already 1.62 seconds behind when she lost balance in a right turn and

slid off course. The defending overall champion also went out in both previous slalom races in Courcheval and Semmering. Close friend Riesch believed that Vonn's equipment change two years ago has harmed her slalom performance. Vonn left Rossignol to join Riesch at Head. "Lindsey was able to win slalom races three years ago, but not since switching her ski brands," Riesch said. "Now she's having difficulties. That's the risk of switching." Teammate Sarah Schleper, who finished eighth, said Vonn might be lacking of confidence in the technical races. □

JETS
Continued from Page B1

"Unfortunately, the plaintiffs never reported the allegations to the Jets, either during or after the conclusion of their work," the team said in a statement Tuesday. "The case against the Jets is completely without merit, and we look forward to defending the matter in court, where we are confident that the Jets will prevail." Favre's agent, Bus Cook, didn't immediately return a telephone message. The lawsuit is the latest controversy for the Jets (11-5) in a turbulent, winning season. They play the Colts (10-6) at Indianapolis on Saturday night in the opening playoff round. While the women don't say they received any messages directly from Favre, the quarterback referred to Scavo in a message proposing a meeting with her and a third, unidentified massage therapist, the lawsuit says. "Kinda lonely tonight," he added in a subsequent message to the third masseuse, the lawsuit said. "I guess I have bad intentions." The lawsuit came five days after the NFL fined Favre, now with the Minnesota Vikings, \$50,000 for not being forthright in an investigation into allegations that he sent lewd text messages and photos to former Jets game hostess Jenn Sterger when they both worked for the team. The league's investigation lasted months as the three-time MVP staggered through his 20th NFL season. Favre's consecutive starts streak ended at 297 in December and he sat out the Vikings' final game, a loss to Detroit on Sunday. Afterward he said he's retiring — for good, this time. The team was fined \$100,000 by the NFL last week for violating league rules when assistant coach Sal Alosi ordered players to form a sideline wall, then tripped Miami's Nolan Carroll during a punt return in December. Special teams coach Mike Westhoff accused other teams of employing similar sideline wall tactics. An embarrassed coach Rex Ryan has had to answer questions about a foot-fetish report posted by the sports website Deadspin a few weeks ago, saying repeatedly it's a "personal matter." He has also been criticized for his foul language on HBO's "Hard Knocks" during the summer and was fined \$50,000 by the team last January for his obscene gesture toward a fan during a mixed-martial arts competition in Florida. □





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Federer hits through-the-legs winner at Qatar Open

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Roger Federer added to his repertoire of through-the-legs winners Tuesday on his way to beating Dutch qualifier Thomas Schoorel 7-6 (3), 6-3 at the Qatar Open in his first official match of the season.

After a sluggish first set, the No. 2-ranked Swiss hit form in the second. Leading 5-2 and faced with a ball which changed direction after clipping the top of the net, Federer flicked it through his legs for a clean winner into the corner.

“It’s one of the best shots again of my career,” Federer said. “One I’m going to look back on and smile, of course. It was quite fantastic.”

The 21-year-old Schoorel, playing only his second ATP-level match, managed a smile as the crowd applauded, and although Schoorel went on to hold his serve, Federer sealed the win in the next game.

Federer successfully pulled off the shot — also known as

a “tweener” — at the previous two U.S. Opens, at last year’s Shanghai Masters and at the 2007 Dubai Open.

In the second round, Federer plays Swiss compatriot Marco Chiudinelli, who beat Reda El Amrani 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal also advanced, beating Karol Beck 6-3, 6-0.

“It was not an easy match,” the Spaniard said. “I started well and then kept playing well. I think I gave a good performance.”

Nadal led 3-0 in the first set, and then broke Beck all three times in the second.

“I try to do better every day and be consistent,” said Nadal, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year. “I wanted to do that. It is important to do that to keep my (top) ranking. I am happy with the way I played.”

Nadal, who is seeking his first trophy in Doha, will face either Lukas Lacko of Slovakia and Pere Riba of Spain in the next

round.

Federer, a 16-time Grand Slam champion, struggled in the first set against Schoorel, and had to save three set points when trailing 5-4 in the first set.

However, he reeled off five points in a row to level the score at 5-5 and then took advantage of three long returns by Schoorel to take the set on a tiebreak.

“It was a difficult match, especially in the first set,” Federer said. “In the first set, he played really well. This player has quality. I got confidence when I saved those set points. Then I picked up my game.”

Federer broke serve for the first time in the match in the fourth game of the second set before easing to victory.

“I hope to do well here,” said Federer, who won the tournament in 2005 and 2006. “I know (Rafael) Nadal is here and that makes this event very interesting.” □



World number two tennis player Roger Federer, from Switzerland celebrates after winning against to Thomas schoorel of Netherlands during the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

Associated Press

Stosur, Peer lose as top women ousted in Brisbane

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — French Open finalist Sam Stosur had an upset loss in straight sets to fellow Australian Jarmila Groth and Shahar Peer lost to Lucie Safarova as the top two women’s seeds were ousted Tuesday at the Brisbane International.

Groth won 6-2, 6-4, breaking top-seeded Stosur’s serve four times and saving three of the four break points she faced in the 1-hour, 18-minute match. She served seven aces in the second set and nine in the match.

Stosur was on course to force a third set after racing to a 4-1 lead in the second set, but struggled with her serve as Groth reeled off five straight games to clinch a place in the quarterfinals.

Safarova reached the women’s quarterfinals here for the third straight year when she beat second-seeded Peer of Israel 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.

The Czech, a former Australian Open quarterfinalist, is the girlfriend of 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych.

“Of course people ask me about Tomas, but so far it (Berdych’s success) is motivating me to do better and to try to reach a better level of tennis,” Safarova said.

Russian No. 5 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova also won her second-round match, beating Serbia’s Bojana Jovanovski 6-2, 7-5.

In women’s first-round matches, Italy’s Roberta Vinci had a 6-2, 7-6 (2) win over American Christina McHale, a late replacement for Fed Cup champion Flavia Pennetta, who withdrew

due to sickness.

In the men’s draw, top-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden closed a 6-2, 6-4 win over American qualifier Ryan Harrison with an ace, while former Australian Open finalist Marcos Baghdatis rallied from a set down to beat Frenchman Florent Serra 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Germany’s Benjamin Becker upset third-seeded Fernando Verdasco 6-1, 6-7 (2), 6-3 Tuesday in the first round of the Brisbane International, while fourth-seeded Mardy Fish advanced with a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 win over Adrian Mannarín of France in just over an hour.

“It’s always good to get a win under your belt ... it’s not every day you beat a top 10 player,” Becker said. “I had a good game plan and it worked well today.”

Becker, ranked 53rd, raced through the first set in 30 minutes, with Verdasco failing to hold serve until the sixth game.

Spain’s Verdasco, runner-up here in 2009, recovered a break in the second set and leveled the match by winning the tiebreaker but dropped his opening service game in the third set and Becker didn’t let him back into the match.

Radek Stepanek, the 2009 champion and runner-up here last year, beat Germany’s Tobias Kamke 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, while South African Kevin Anderson beat Australia’s Peter Luczak 6-4, 6-4 and veteran Frenchman Arnaud Clement went down in straight sets to Richard Berankis of Lithuania. □

HOPMAN

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“I played great, especially the beginning of the second I was playing some of the best tennis I’ve played in this year and a half,” Djokovic said.

“We players have great respect for him (Hewitt) because he’s a big fighter, he keeps on coming back. He’s won everything — Grand Slam, world No. 1, Davis Cup — and he wants more, so you have to respect that.”

Ivanovic was relieved to feel OK after overextending her left knee midway through a point while leading Molik by a set and 3-0. Ivanovic managed to finish off the set 6-0.

“I was a little bit scared because in that one split step that I made I went a little bit low and I felt a sharp pain in my knee,” Ivanovic said. “So I thought I better check with the doctors and see what they think. I’m going to go see them afterwards. But it feels fine.

“We had some really tough points and good rallies. I think it was high-class tennis considering it’s just the beginning of the year.”

Earlier, seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin downed Sesil Karatantcheva of Kazakhstan 6-4, 6-3 as Belgium swept their tie.

The win kept alive Belgium’s hopes of reaching the final after an opening loss to Australia in Group A. Kazakhstan was eliminated after its second straight 3-0 loss, the first to Serbia.

Karatantcheva was brought in overnight to replace Yaroslava Shvedova, who withdrew after injuring her knee against Ivanovic on Sunday.

This was Henin’s first appearance at the Hopman Cup, having chosen last year to play at the Brisbane International, where the former world No. 1 lost to fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters in the final. “It’s my first time in Perth and it’s a great experience,” Henin said. “I wait 28 years to come here, but maybe I’ll come back next year, who knows. I love to play in Australia, they have a sports culture, it’s just great.” □

Anthony Kim wants to be about golf, not gossip



In this Aug. 13, 2010, file photo, Anthony Kim reacts to a shot during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis. Kim wants 2011 to be a season that changes his career. He hopes it might be enough to change his reputation, too.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Anthony Kim wants 2011 to be a season that changes his career.

He hopes it might be enough to change his reputation, too.

One of the most dynamic young talents in golf? That's what people were saying two years ago, when Kim blew away the field with a record score at Quail Hollow, then shot 65 in the final round at Congressional to win the AT&T National. It made him the youngest American since Tiger Woods to win twice in one year.

If that wasn't enough, he brought energy and attitude to the Ryder Cup and was the catalyst of a rare U.S. victory.

That now seems like a long time ago.

It's not that the 25-year-old Californian has disappeared. He is still

among the elite at No. 31 in the world, having reached as high as No. 6 toward the end of 2008. And only PGA Tour winners enjoy the oceanfront room that Kim has at Kapalua, where the Tournament of Champions kicks off a new season Thursday.

But he has a bitter taste about how last year ended. He won the Houston Open in a playoff, then closed with a 65 at Augusta National to finish third. Thumb surgery a month later kept him out of golf for three months, and he failed to make the Ryder Cup team when he couldn't make a cut upon his return.

Kim still managed to make news, or at least gossip columns.

He has a zest for living, which first came to life with tales from his Ryder Cup celebration at Valhalla and carried on through Twitter and blog reports from a night in the Las Vegas

casinos in October.

Is he closer to being like Tiger Woods or John Daly? "That's a hell of a question," Kim said, smiling at first before pausing to contemplate.

Daly makes more news off the course these days, so it's easy to overlook an amazing talent that brought him a PGA Championship title as a 25-year-old rookie in 1991 and a British Open victory at St. Andrews. Kim found it coincidental that after headlines he made in Las Vegas in October, Daly was the only tour player who reached out to him in a text message.

"Both have majors," Kim said. "I think I'm closer to Tiger because I love putting in the time. Now, I've gotten away from this. But I definitely feel like I'm closer as far as the values of the Asian culture and putting in time, not worrying about tough times. In a lot of ways, I think people see me

as a guy who likes to have fun, and that's it. But I care about a lot of things."

Kim is careful not to be motivated for the wrong reasons.

He has trimmed the number of his traveling party and has heard from enough people whom he trusts that playing with the purpose of proving people wrong is the wrong route. Even so, he feels as though fans, the media and players are questioning his devotion to his sport.

"I have a lot of people doubting me, which I like," he said.

When asked why they are skeptical of his future, Kim first mentioned the arrival of so many players in his age group. Indeed, that's what makes golf more intriguing than it has been in years. Martin Kaymer, who just turned 26, last year became the youngest major champion since Woods in 2001. Rory McIlroy won at Quail Hollow at age 20. Ryo Ishikawa was still 18 when he shot 58 to win in Japan. Jason Day won in Dallas, and at 23 is the youngest player at Kapalua. Slightly older than Kim, and still very young, are the likes of Dustin Johnson and Hunter Mahan.

"A lot of guys played well who are younger, and they're overlooking me, which is fine," Kim said. "It's not that I have something to prove. I know I'm capable of winning golf tournaments."

But it's more than the youth movement bugging Kim.

When asked whether he was troubled about players doubting him because of his activity off the course, Kim's eyes widened and he turned in his chair away from the Orange Bowl game on television.

"One hundred percent. Couldn't have said it any better," he said. "I feel that is

a major reason why people doubt me. They don't think I care about golf. It's hard for people who don't know me to say, 'He's 25, having a good time with his friends.' If anyone knows me, they know I'm willing to admit to my mistakes. But when I do something, I want to be the best at it. I'm going to scratch and claw my way up the ladder. People around me see that." Kim doesn't see the need to explain what happened in Las Vegas. If there was a lesson that came out of that, it was understanding that it's better to be the center of attention inside the ropes than under a neon sign.

"I feel obligated to my sponsors to do a better job of not even letting some of these stories come out," he said. "I don't want to be a player no one can relate to. Sure, I've made some mistakes. I know that I was brought up well by two very great people, people that everyone respects. I'm not the type of person to stray off course. Maybe I did for a minute, but I've realized that I've got to have a game plan — not for my next round, but for my life."

Leave it to Kim to draw an analogy from George St. Pierre, who said the Ultimate Fighting Championship was a lot like golf.

He didn't get the sense the UFC welterweight knew much about golf, but his words stuck with Kim.

"He said once you make the golf swing and hit the shot, you can't control it. You have to do everything before the shot to control the outcome," Kim said. "I'm going to do whatever I can to control what I can." That starts this week at Kapalua, and his hope is to carry that through this year and beyond to get his name back in the conversation for all the right reasons. □

U.S. sees massive drop in bumble bees

WASHINGTON — Weakened by inbreeding and disease, bumble bees have died off at an astonishing rate over the past 20 years, with some US populations diving more than 90 percent, according to a new study.

The findings are of concern because bees play a crucial role in pollinating crops such as tomatoes, peppers and berries, said the findings of a three-year study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Similar declines have also been seen in Europe and Asia, said Sydney Cameron, of the Department of Entomology and Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois, the main author of the study.

“The decline of bumble bees in the US is associated with two things we were able to study: the pathogen *Nosema bombi* and a decline in genetic diversity. But we are not saying *Nosema* is the cause. We don’t know,” said Cameron.

“It’s just an association. There may be other causes.”

He added that the decline is “huge and recent,” having taken place in the last two decades.

Nosema bombi is a bee pathogen that has also afflicted European bumble bees.

Researchers examined eight species of North American bumble bees and found that the “relative abundance of four species has dropped by more than 90 percent, suggesting die-offs further supported by shrinking geographic ranges,” said the study.

“Compared with species of relatively stable population sizes, the dwindling bee species had low genetic diversity, potentially rendering them prone to pathogens and environmental pressures.”

Their cousins, the honey bees, have also experienced catastrophic die-offs since 2006 in a phenomenon known as “colony collapse disorder,” though the causes have yet to be fully determined.

Bumble bees also make honey, but it is used to feed the



A bumble bee collects pollen on flowers in Washington, DC. Weakened by inbreeding and disease, bumble bees have died off at an astonishing rate over the past 20 years, with some US populations diving more than 90 percent, according to a new study.

colony, not farmed for human consumption.

They are however raised in Europe for pollinating greenhouse vegetables in a multi-billion-dollar industry

that has more recently taken off in Japan and Israel and is being developed in Mexico and China, Cameron said.

“We need to start to develop other bees for pollination

beside honey bees, because they are suffering enormously,” he added.

There are around 250 species of bumble bee, including 50 in the United States alone. □



This Aug. 18, 2010 photo released by the U.S. Forest Service shows a close-up of hemlock woolly adelgid, cottony egg masses on a hemlock twig in the U.S. Forest Service’s Durham, N.H., field office. For nearly 60 years, scientists have watched helplessly as a war of bug vs. hemlock played out from Georgia to Maine. Now they’ve got a new weapon in their arsenal — another bug — and say the tide is turning, at least in New England.

(AP Photo/U.S. Forest Service, J.J. O’Shea)

By KATHY McCORMACK,
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — For nearly 60 years, scientists have watched helplessly as a war of bug vs. hemlock played out from Georgia to Maine. Now they’ve got a new weapon in their arsenal — another bug — and say the tide is turning, at least in New England.

The hemlock woolly adelgid, native to Asia, was discovered in Virginia in 1951. Since then, it has spread to suck up the sap of the stately evergreens in at least 16 Eastern states, including in New England, which hasn’t lost large numbers of trees yet. A beetle that eats the adelgid (pronounced uh-DEL-jid)

was found in Idaho and was introduced to forests in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and New York in 2007. Since then, entomologists have determined that the predator, which is able to withstand cold weather better than its cousins, is doing its job.

“We’re getting ahead of the game, essentially,” said Mike Bohne, a U.S. Forest Service entomologist in Durham, N.H. Adelgids can weaken and kill a hemlock over several years. Their eggs appear as white, woolly batches on the underside of branch tips. Sections of hemlock forests in the South, such as in the Blue Ridge, Shenandoah and Great Smoky mountains, have been devastated.

It usually takes years to see results, Bohne said, but entomologists found that

the number of beetles had increased after 1 1/2 years in the Finger Lakes of New York, as well as in a couple of state forests in Massachusetts and in Brattleboro, Vt.

“It’s very exciting in that the beetles are responding to their new environment and eating adelgids,” Bohne said. “It’ll take some time before we’ll see a huge population, but ultimately, it’s a very, very positive sign.”

The beetle, called *Laricobius nigrinus*, appears to be more successful at eating the bad bugs in New England than a similar beetle native to Washington state. Scientists started introducing that beetle to the 16 affected states in 2003, but it has spread significantly only in the warmer South.

“There’s no doubt that this beetle has been the favored

child of everything we’ve looked at so far,” said Brad Onken, a Forest Service entomologist in Morgantown, W.Va.

Saving the hemlocks, which grow near rivers and streams, is critical to the health of forests and wildlife, entomologists say. Dying hemlocks affect water quality and soil erosion and could affect other species, said David Mausel, a University of Massachusetts entomologist. “Many birds, animals, insects and plants depend upon the unique habitat provided by the eastern hemlock,” he said.

There aren’t very many trees in the Northeast that can survive in the same habitat as a hemlock, Bohne said.

“It affects everything from migratory bird patterns to extreme temperatures,” he said. □

Science, bugs team up to fight hemlock-eating pest

Sheriff wants Lindsay Lohan charged with battery



By **DERRIK J. LANG**
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES – Sheriff’s investigators want Lindsay Lohan charged with battery for last month’s skirmish with a Betty Ford Center rehabilitation technician. A two-week investigation shows the 24-year-old actress violated her probation during the altercation and details will be sent to the Los Angeles County Probation Department this week, Riverside sheriff’s Sgt. Joe

Borja said in a news release. A Beverly Hills judge has said Lohan will be jailed if she violates probation. Investigators expect to take their case to the Riverside County district attorney’s office this week for possible prosecution, Borja said. Lohan returned to the Rancho Mirage drug dependency center on Dec. 12 after curfew and refused rehab worker Dawn Holland’s request to take a Breathalyzer test, according to investigators.

Lohan is accused of pushing Holland, who then dialed 911, and Lohan ripped the phone away and injured Holland’s wrist. Lohan has been receiving treatment at Betty Ford, about 120 miles east of Los Angeles, since late September. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox, who has overseen Lohan’s probation for her 3 1/2 year-old drunken driving case, required Lohan to remain at the rehab center until Monday. John Hall, spokesman for the Riverside County district attorney’s office, said his office expected to receive investigators’ findings this week. If Lohan is prosecuted in Riverside County, the Los

Angeles County Probation Department would be notified, he said. “The important, yet limited, investigatory role of the police to gather facts and collect evidence is well-established,” Shawn Chapman Holley, Lohan’s attorney, said in a statement Tuesday. “The fact that (police) went outside this limited role to issue a press statement expressing its opinion about what should happen in Ms. Lohan’s case is highly unusual and deeply troubling.” The actress is due back in court Feb. 25 in Beverly Hills for a hearing at which Fox is expected to address Lohan’s probation and the Betty Ford altercation.

Lohan was scheduled to be released from Betty Ford on Monday, but there were conflicting reports about when she left rehab. RadarOnline posted a cell phone video Tuesday of what appeared to be Lohan with her father, Michael, greeting her “Freaky Friday” co-star Jamie Lee Curtis. The celebrity site said the video was taken earlier Tuesday at the Four Seasons hotel in Los Angeles. Lohan herself remained silent on Twitter on Tuesday. Lohan’s attorney did not specify when the actress was released. And a spokesman for the Betty Ford Center said the facility does not comment on its patients. □

Songwriter Gerry Rafferty dies at 63



LONDON - Scottish singer-songwriter Gerry Rafferty, whose 1970s hits include “Baker Street” and “Stuck in the Middle With You,” has died at age 63, his agent said on Tuesday. “I can confirm that Gerry very sadly passed away,” Paul Charles said in an email, giving no further details. British media reported that Rafferty died peacefully at home with his daughter Martha by his side. He had battled a drinking problem and spent time in hospital at Bournemouth in the south of England, with liver failure, the BBC reported. Rafferty was born in Paisley, Scotland, and played in several bands before forming the folk rock outfit Stealers Wheel in 1972.

The group’s eponymous debut album featured “Stuck in the Middle With You,” a hit single that enjoyed a new lease of life when it was used in Quentin Tarantino’s movie “Reservoir Dogs.” Stealers Wheel broke up in 1975, but three years later Rafferty released the solo album “City to City” which produced the song “Baker Street” and sold millions of copies worldwide. In October, “Baker Street,” which includes the famous saxophone solo, was recognized by the royalty collection organization BMI for more than five million plays globally. “Stuck in the Middle With You” has been aired more than four million times. □

HIV STIGMA

Because of the stigma associated with HIV, many people are reluctant to get tested and an infected person may unknowingly continue to have unprotected sexual relationships.

Persons already diagnosed know they have a responsibility to prevent further transmission. Fear of being stigmatized, however, may prevent some persons from disclosing their status. Stigma drives the infection underground and makes it more difficult to contain the spread of HIV. Before you stigmatize or discriminate against someone with HIV, STOP! THINK ABOUT IT.



Wall Street edges lower on commodity shares

NEW YORK — Investors abandoned red-hot commodity shares on Tuesday, while fears of lower supermarket profits hit food retailers, sending the S&P and Nasdaq lower.

Volume was strong for a second day as investors reshuffled their portfolios at the beginning of the year, and analysts said the attractiveness of equities was intact.

Recent stock gainers topped Tuesday's list of losers, falling as copper, oil and other commodities slipped from multiyear highs.

The S&P materials index fell

0.5 percent and the energy index (.GSPE) lost 0.6 percent. Materials and energy were among the top-performing sectors in 2010.

"The S&P is pretty buoyant because of the fact that there seems to be a little bit of a renewed interest in the market," said Nick Kalivas, senior equity index analyst at MF Global in Chicago.

"I think it's subtle, but I do think it's present. How long it lasts is obviously the million dollar question."

Shares of grocer Supervalu Inc (SVU.N) fell more

than 6 percent and was the top percentage decliner on the S&P 500 after Morgan Stanley told investors to cut holdings in the stock, saying rising food costs will crimp margins. Safeway Inc (SWY.N) and Whole Foods Market (WFMI.O) also slid.

The Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) added 20.43 points, or 0.18 percent, to 11,691.18. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) dipped 1.67 points, or 0.13 percent, to 1,270.20. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) was off 10.27 points,



or 0.38 percent, to 2,681.25.

The S&P and Nasdaq pared losses modestly and the Dow edged higher following minutes from the Federal Reserve's December policy meeting that showed officials felt the U.S. economic recovery was still weak enough to warrant monetary support in the form of bond purchases by the Fed.

The market was also supported by strength in defensive shares, including the utilities and telecom sectors. The defensive tone aided blue chips as the Dow ended higher.

The market's weakness followed a strong start to the new trading year on Monday. The Dow and S&P 500 recently hit two-year highs

as data pointed to a U.S. recovery.

While many analysts see another year of gains for the S&P 500, Morgan Stanley offered a contrarian view, forecasting the S&P 500 would end the year lower.

Shares of Supervalu dropped 6.3 percent to \$9.00. Safeway was down 3.8 percent at \$21.64, and Whole Foods fell 3.4 percent to \$49.04.

About 8.38 billion shares traded on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and Nasdaq, just below last year's estimated daily average of 8.47 billion.

Declining stocks outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by 1,889 to 1,103, while on the Nasdaq, decliners beat advancers 1,805 to 844. □

New Florida governor to add jobs, cut tax

By Michael Peltier

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (Reuters) — Former hospital executive and political novice Rick Scott was sworn in as Florida governor on Tuesday and he promised to create jobs, reduce government regulation and eliminate the state's corporate income tax.

Scott, a 58-year-old Republican, took the oath of office on the steps of the old state capitol building in Tallahassee. In his inaugural address, he said job creation would be his top priority. "Florida has to offer business people the biggest opportunity for financial success," Scott said. "Not a guarantee, just a fair chance. Three forces markedly reduce that chance of success -- taxation, regulation and litigation. Those three form the axis of unemployment." Florida is struggling to recover from the collapse of its housing market and its unemployment rate hovers at 12 percent, factors that Scott said "left a trail of destruction as bad as any hurricane."

He told a crowd of supporters he would focus on increasing healthcare options, reducing civil litigation while cutting costs and eliminating the red tape he blames for hampering Florida's economic recovery. He also promised to phase out the corporate income tax that brings in \$2 billion a year of revenue.

"Whether the national government takes the right steps or not, here in Florida we have what we need to make the next four years the most exciting time to live and work in Florida," Scott said.

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Scott defeated Democrat Alex Sink, the state's outgoing chief financial officer, after spending

more than \$70 million of his own money. Scott, former CEO of Columbia/HCA Health Care, has a net worth of about \$218 million.

During the campaign, Sink tried to keep the spotlight on Scott's leadership of Columbia/HCA, which paid \$1.7 billion in fines to settle the largest Medicare fraud case in U.S. history in the late 1990s. Scott was never charged in the Medicare case and said he did not know about the fraud when he was chief executive. Scott's pro-business platform played well with the inaugural crowd, which included many large contributors. Representatives from U.S. Sugar Corp and Florida Crystals Corp. had front row seats at the ceremony, during which Scott promised to protect businesses from civil litigation.

"We will not allow excessive lawsuits to strangle job creation," Scott said. "And we will not allow a small group of predatory lawyers to stalk the business community in search of deep pockets." Bucking recent austerity trends, his inaugural committee used nearly \$3.5 million in private contributions to fund a two-day slate of inaugural activities that included a statewide tour, a black-tie dinner and tributes to military personnel and women.

Tuesday's festivities started with a prayer breakfast at Florida A&M University, a historically black college that has held the prayer venue for many an incoming governor. In his first official action, Scott signed an executive order preventing agencies from writing regulations until a newly created Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform reviews and approves the rules. That office also will review every state contract over \$1 million. □

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Small change; Big difference

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Social researchers tell us that less than three percent of New Year's resolutions are accomplished. These are odds that are not exciting. Resolutions are about making a change in your life. Both, Phyllis and I believe most resolutions are not accomplished because our minds resist change and therefore stop us before we can make lasting changes. The first setback is that our resolutions are usually made in the future. We say "this year I am going to..." Unfortunately, your subconscious, the strongest part of you, lives in "the now" and does not understand the future, only the present moment. There is a good reason for this. Stop and think for a moment. Your breathing, heartbeat, digestion of food, repairing your body, who is doing all of these things? Certainly not the "you" that is reading this article, you are much too busy living your life. However, these activities that are taking place in your body, that you think are automatic are generously provided for you by your subconscious. Your subconscious works under the principle of homeostasis. This word was developed in 1932 by Walter Cannon from

the Greek homoios (same, like, resembling) and stasis (to stand, posture). You computer and electronics geeks will understand "default setting", which is the "same posture" or position as it had when it came out of the factory. Thus, you subconscious regulates your internal body functions to maintain a stable, constant condition, non-changing right now; not later. You do not tell your subconscious that later you will need a faster heartbeat because you will be taking a fast walk. Instead of saying "this year I am going to stop smoking; which, by the way, is the greatest thing you can do to improve your health, you say "I am full of gratitude that I no longer smoke!" When you feel the urge, because your subconscious has been programmed to flood your midbrain with nicotine at intervals, you say "Ah, how thankful I am that we are no longer smokers". Now here are decisions and new commands which your subconscious can use to reset your body. If you are getting a sense that homeostasis is all about balance? The ability to balance is one of our physiological senses. It allows us to walk without falling. Some animals are better in this than humans,

for example allowing a cat to walk on a thin fence. In the metaphysical or conceptual sense, balance is used to mean a point between two opposite forces that is desirable over purely one state or the other, such as a balance between the metaphysical Law and Chaos — law by itself being overly controlling, chaos being overly unmanageable, balance being the point that minimizes the negatives of both. But, it could be as simple as the equilibrium between yin and yang energy. "Being in balance" means "health" for us Traditional Chinese Medicine physicians. Only when we have our balance does this stability allow us to leap forward. Ah, change! But, can you take a jump when you feel like you are falling? Similarly, no matter how bad your habits, your vices, how badly you feel about yourself, take a moment to accept yourself and start where you are when you make this New Year's resolutions. Remember, what you think about yourself is how your subconscious also views you. Of course, for your subconscious to be able to regulate your internal body functions to maintain a stable, constant condition it needs to be able to adapt to

different conditions you are asking of your body. Some people, not having done the best for their body have lost the ability to walk up a flight of stairs, since their lungs and heart are now inflexible in their ability to handle more work. We can all learn the secret of the success attitude of our subconscious, which is its ability and willingness to change. However, don't expect to leap forward all at once. Like the person that lost the ability to walk up a flight of stairs, it takes time to change a stubborn habit or belief. Most experts say it takes at least a month to change a habit, but the willingness to stay with it are rewarding. When you give gratitude for allowing positive change, balance will come into your life as a wonderful New Year's resolution. It opens the door for inner calmness and allows unconditional respect for others. Being ready, able, and willing to change is to start living you life intelligently. Get The Point! We invite you to make 2011 your personal "Year of Healing", a time in which you can make the small lifestyle changes that can make a big difference in your level of vitality, health and well-being. In our clinic we provide



holistic evaluations and life-balance programs designed to help you gain personal insight into your state of physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness. Our program then offers guidance and tools to transform this new awareness into lasting changes in your life, and a renewed sense of health and wellbeing. May you have a Happy, Healthy New Year.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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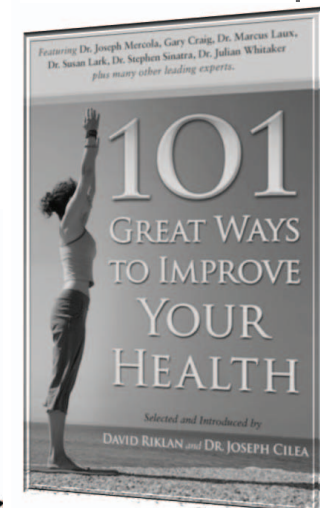


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1 in 5 heart defibrillator implants questionable



By **CARLA K. JOHNSON** heart defibrillators may be
AP Medical Writer implanted for questionable
CHICAGO – One in five reasons without solid evidence

that the devices will help, according to a first-of-its-kind analysis.

Implanted defibrillators shock the heart back into a normal rhythm when it starts beating irregularly. They can prevent sudden death in people with advanced heart failure, but researchers haven't found a benefit for other patients.

Patients who've had a recent heart attack or recent bypass surgery aren't good candidates for defibrillators, for example. Guidelines don't recommend them for people newly diagnosed with heart failure either and those so sick that they have very limited life

expectancies won't be helped. But in the new study, which examined nearly four years of national data, 22 percent of the implant surgeries were in patients who fit one of those categories.

Some may have been appropriate, said lead author Dr. Sana Al-Khatib of Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, N.C., but it's likely that many were done despite the research evidence.

"It's lack of knowledge. It's ignorance. It's not keeping track of the guidelines," she said. "And we may have some physicians who don't agree

with the guidelines or don't think the guidelines apply to their patients."

The study, appearing in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, examined national registry data from nearly 112,000 patients in 2006-2009.

The researchers found that the patients who got implants according to guidelines were less likely to die in the hospital and suffer complications than the patients whose surgeries clearly fell outside the guidelines. Fewer than 1 percent of either group died in the hospital.

The surgeries cost thousands of dollars, raising questions about wasted resources, Al-Khatib said. "It's all about improving the quality of care," she said.

The 22 percent rate is disturbingly high, said Dr. Douglas Zipes of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. He wasn't involved in the study but has helped write research-based guidelines for the devices.

"If the patient is not benefiting, we shouldn't be doing it," Zipes said. He noted that doctors with special training in heart rhythms, had slightly better rates of evidence-based implants than did other types of doctors in the study.

Doctors should follow guidelines, he said, and patients should choose a specialist with training in heart rhythm problems.

One Newspaper Wants to Transform a Nation

It's early Saturday morning and a fleet of bright yellow three-wheelers motors across the Mozambican capital in the direction of its slums, the vehicles piled high with copies of Jornal @ Verdade - a free, weekly newspaper that in just two years has become the country's most read. As the tuk-tuks, or txopelas, reach Maputo's ramshackle fringes, people rush to grab their copies, chasing after the moving vehicles with outstretched arms and crowding around them when they stop.

With a weekly readership estimated by the paper at around 400,000, Verdade - meaning truth in the nation's official language of Portuguese - reaches far more Mozambicans than any of the country's other papers, says market-research company GfK Group. But while many publishers would be satisfied with creating a popular, free, quality newspaper, for founder Erik Charas that's just the beginning: the 36-year-old homegrown entrepreneur believes his paper can be an instrument of social change, one that will help lift the country out of poverty and end its dependence on aid. "We didn't start a newspaper to become a great newspaper," he says. "We started a newspaper to achieve transformation in the country, to push the issue of access to information and ultimately ... to engineer or create ambition in Mozambicans." (Read "How to Save Your Newspaper.")

Seventy-five percent of Mozambicans live on less than \$1.25 a day, making most of the nation's best-selling papers, which go for between 45 cents and 75 cents, an unaffordable luxury. "With Verdade, people can buy food and get the news," says Charas. "They don't have to choose." Founded in 2008 with about half a million dollars that Charas raised from previous business ventures and private investment, Verdade now has an editorial staff of 15. Along with advertising income, the paper brings in revenue through its txopelas, which double as taxis, and from partnerships with mobile-telephone providers (the

paper encourages readers to text in with news, comments and requests for advice).

Leaving coverage of high-level politics to other papers, Verdade focuses on the issues that affect those on Maputo's fringes: bread subsidies, electricity prices, crime in the slums and HIV/AIDS. "I've never bought a paper. I've never had the opportunity," says Enia Tembe, 29, a washroom attendant in a Maputo shopping mall who earns about \$70 a month. "Verdade helps us to see what's going on." (See pictures of Africa's AIDS crisis.)

But surprisingly for a paper sold in a country that has had its economy devastated by 16 years of civil war, the 32-page, full-color Verdade also carries reviews of the iPad and luxury cars, products far out of the reach of its target market. Aspiration, Charas believes, is the key to Mozambique's reinvention. "If you have ambition, you'll want things for yourself, you'll act on them," he says. "And ultimately the country will benefit." The @ symbol in Jornal @Verdade is Charas' benchmark for success: when Mozambicans are digitally literate enough to recognize the symbol as part of an e-mail address, he will have done his job. But critics aren't convinced that Verdade can fulfill its own ambition of changing the nation. Gil Lauriciano, a local journalist, notes that his cousin who lives in a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of the city is too busy surviving to think about owning an iPad.

Tooth Loss May Be Linked to Memory Loss

Elderly people who lose their teeth may be at increased risk for dementia, researchers have found.

The new study included more than 4,000 Japanese participants, 65 and older, who underwent a dental examination and a psychiatric assessment. Compared with participants who still had many of their natural teeth, those with fewer or no teeth were much more likely to have experienced some memory loss or have early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

The findings were published online Dec. 31 in Behavioral and Brain Functions.

Participants with symptoms of memory loss tended to report that they had visited the dentist rarely, if at all. Dr. Nozomi Okamoto,

the study's principal investigator, said that this may be one explanation for the study's findings but suggested that there may be other links between tooth loss and memory problems.

"Infections in the gums that can lead to tooth loss may release inflammatory substances, which in turn will enhance the brain inflammation that cause neuronal death and hasten memory loss," she said in a news release from the journal's publisher. "The loss of sensory receptors around the teeth is linked to some of the dying neurons."

This may lead to a vicious cycle, Okamoto explained. The loss of these brain connections can cause more teeth to fall out, further contributing to cognitive decline.

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Morales se disculpa con Venezuela por quema de bandera

LA PAZ (AP) - El presidente Evo Morales se disculpó con Venezuela por la quema de una bandera de ese país durante los disturbios de la semana pasada tras el alza en los precios de los carburantes.

“Pedí públicamente disculpas a nombre del pueblo boliviano”, dijo el mandatario el martes durante un desayuno con corresponsales. Comentó que la embajada de Caracas llamó al palacio presidencial en La Paz para hacer un reclamo por la agresión.

Morales dijo que los disturbios fueron alentados y “pagados” por la derecha. El jueves, manifestantes apedrearon sedes de sindicatos afines al gobierno, quemaron instalaciones públicas y retratos de Morales y arriaron la bandera de Venezuela en una plaza de La Paz y le prendieron fuego.

“Lamentablemente es una expresión de la derecha. Por primera vez en La Paz se atentó contra la bandera de Venezuela y contra un monumento del Che” Guevara, sostuvo Morales.

El mandatario boliviano anuló el aumento de las gasolinas tras las violentas protestas, que dejaron al menos 15 heridos y 20 detenidos. “No son los movimientos

sociales, son grupos de la oposición”, insistió.

El presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez es aliado de Morales y ayuda al gobierno boliviano. Morales recordó que en su tiempo de líder de los cocaleros acompañó protestas en las que se quemó la bandera de Estados Unidos pero justificó esas manifestaciones porque militares de ese país “humillaban” a soldados bolivianos y a campesinos.

Autoridades y legisladores oficialistas culparon al ex alcalde de La Paz Juan del Granado, un ex aliado de Morales, de haber propiciado la protesta.

También acusaron al líder opositor y empresario Samuel Doria Medina de “terrorismo financiero” por haber declarado que el gobierno de Morales preparaba una baja del cambio del dólar respecto a la moneda nacional. Del Granado deslindó responsabilidades en los destrozos y ataques y Doria Medina dijo el martes que al culparlo el “gobierno está tratando de distraer la atención porque no sabe cómo salir del desorden”. Morales dijo que el Ministerio Público “de oficio” debería procesar a esos líderes opositores. □



El presidente boliviano, Evo Morales, durante una reunión con medios extranjeros de prensa en La Paz, ene 4 2011. REUTERS/David Mercado

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